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# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

## 'Preserve our culture, not destroy it'



BY JOEL D. PINAROC  
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REPORTER

**B**ased on the sentiments expressed yesterday by many of those that attended a public hearing on proposed military exercises on Tinian and Pagan, the biggest question the U.S. military probably needs to answer is: "Why the CNMI?"

### RELATED NEWS

► 1,388-page document, yet many unanswered questions.

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The military held a public hearing last night—the first of three planned sessions—at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria that drew hundreds of community members, from residents and lawmakers, to men, women, and children of all ages.

» Hundreds attend military hearing on draft EIS

The U.S. military specifically conducted the hearing to know the sentiments of the community on its proposed "live-fire" exercises and what would happen to Tinian and Pagan should the exercises push through.

Before the hearing, the military presented a draft environmental impact statement, detailing plans to drop bombs on Pagan and fire live munitions in parts of Tinian.

However, based on the almost 30 testaments given by elementary students, teachers, cause-oriented groups, officials, and locals, among others, the mili-

See CULTURE on Page 4

Community members express their disapproval of proposed military exercises on Tinian and Pagan with placards near the Saipan Southern High School, where the military held a public hearing.

## 'Limes died of skull fracture'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

An autopsy showed that Ana Maria Limes died of a skull fracture due to blunt force trauma, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero. » Husband's preliminary hearing postponed as he was acting strangely in court

As this developed, the scheduled preliminary hearing yesterday in the

methamphetamine or "ice" case against Limes' husband, Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan, was postponed after the suspect acted strangely in court.

Sablan's erratic behavior prompted Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio to reset the preliminary hearing for today, Thursday, at 9am.

Deleon Guerrero said Guam

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## BSI signs lease for Garapan lot

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan casino developer Best Sunshine International, Ltd. inked yesterday a lease deal with the government, through the Department of Public Lands, for a 19,154-square-meter public land in Garapan.

According to DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, the initial appraised value of the public land was \$901,000, but Best Sunshine will lease it for \$5 million, about five times the land's original appraised value.

The area was formerly known as "Samoan Housing Area."

With the signing, Best Sunshine also handed over

See BSI on Page 4



Mark Brown, CEO of Best Sunshine, shakes hand with DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio after presenting him with a check for \$500,000 at the Office of the Governor conference room. Behind them is Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres and lawmakers.

## INSIDE



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Cha Café and Bakery is holding its grand opening today, Thursday.

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Indonesia brushes aside appeals and executed eight people convicted of drug smuggling.

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Conflicting information about Joni Mitchell's health is released.

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# Local

## 1,388-page document, yet many unanswered questions

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The voluminous impact documents by the U.S. military on planned live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan still left a "great number of questions" for the working group tasked by Gov. Eloy S. Inos to review this impact.

Right now, the central concerns include the potential loss of acres of coral on Tinian, the contamination of its sole source aquifer by munitions, and the forced displacement of thousands of endangered birds, among others.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Department of Public Lands, among a handful of other agencies, make up this working group.

Their concerns were iterated in a statement this week from the Inos administration. Ahead of the closing of the comment period on this live-fire training, the statement says some of the "central concerns" or "a general direction" of that will be expanded in formal comments by the CNMI.

### Reef habitat

For one, the administration noted the military's plan to build ramps for amphibious assault vehicles off Tinian at Unai Chulu—which

is "part of the North Field and Landing Beaches Historic National Landmark."

The proposed ramp would result in the dredging of 10 acres of coral but would have "direct and indirect effects up to 20 acres," the working group notes.

This was found to be "extremely troublesome."

"The ramp will kill coral, lead to less habitat for fish, would harm sea turtles, and reduce tourism opportunities. Unai Chulu is currently a popular beach for tourists. There will be significant environmental and, we believe, economic impacts," the working group notes.

### Water resources

On groundwater, the group has also found lacking the military's claims in the draft environmental impacts statement that there would be "no impact" or "less than significant impact" to water resources on Tinian.

According to the administration, several studies in existence and contrary to findings in the draft EIS show that military munitions "can and do" contaminate soil and groundwater near firing ranges and other military facilities.

"The EIS needs to address such contaminations in greater detail to ensure the health of the

people of Tinian. There is only one aquifer supplying all the fresh waters for the people of Tinian and care must be taken with the only source of drinking water on island."

### Endangered birds

The CJMT live-fire project also requires the relocation of the Tinian Military Retention Mitigation Land Space for Wildlife Conservation.

Construction in this area will displace "at least 6,600 Tinian monarchs," according to the administration.

"Although the military aims to create a new conservation area, the working group does not believe the new area will be 'as good' for the wildlife as the present location."

But wherever the new area is, the administration notes, "having live firing activity all around

these endangered birds cannot be a good thing."

### Pagan

The draft EIS notes that are no residents on Pagan but this is "simply not true," according to the administration.

"The EIS needs to properly address Pagan as a homeland to people of the Northern Islands," the administration says.

On corals, the military's "no

impact" finding is insufficient.

"The draft EIS needs to address the effect of runoff and sedimentation from live fire on Pagan because the nature of the bombing activities there will likely cause soil and munitions runoff."

"Saying the land is relatively flat is not sufficient. Heavy rains can still wash pollutants off and into the sea," the administration notes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC Power Generation manager Ricard Cano, left, oversees power restoration efforts in Power Plant 1's control room.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD & WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD Information Fair

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## Transformer failure triggers islandwide power outage

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. restored power to the island of Saipan after a transformer malfunction shut down station service to Power Plant 1.

Power Plant 1 generates all of the power for CUC's Saipan customers. The electricity generated is distributed to customers through transmission lines that originate in eight feeders.

Feeder 1 auto-tripped at 11:27 Wednesday morning. When control room personnel attempted to re-energize the lines, a transformer outside of Power Plant 1 triggered what engineers refer to as a "heavy fault" across three transmission lines.

A system of fail-safes took the plant offline to prevent damage to the power management and generation equipment inside the building. After grounding the lines, CUC Power personnel were immediately able to isolate the transformer and remove it from transmission lines.

CUC Power Generation manager Richard Cano said the system shutdown prevented damage to the power plant and the transformer malfunction was likely caused by water that found its way inside the transformer housing.

"The fail-safe worked exactly as it was designed to, allowing Power personnel to identify the source of the problem, address it, and restore electricity to our customers," said Cano.

Once the transformer was disconnected from the lines, plant personnel restarted the engines and began the methodical power restoration process, feeder by feeder, until power was fully restored to Saipan at 1:19pm.

### Water service restored

As a result of the power outage, customers experienced a temporary interruption in water service. When islandwide power outages occur, CUC Water Operation personnel immediately close the water tanks to prevent them from draining.

Once power was restored Wednesday afternoon, Water personnel inspected the pumps at each of Saipan's 150 water wells for potential damage that may have occurred in the power outage. Crews then re-energized the pumps and reopened the tanks, allowing water to be pushed to each of the reservoirs,

thus restoring water service across the island. (CUC)

# Low applicant turnout for BSI jobs worries lawmaker

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Residents should take advantage and apply for numerous job openings being offered by Best Sunshine International, Ltd.

According to Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), he is particularly worried about the low turnout of local residents applying for jobs posted by Best Sunshine, the exclusive casino license holder in the CNMI.

plying for jobs posted by Best Sunshine, the exclusive casino license holder in the CNMI.

He said he is making a shoutout to locals to go for the jobs.

Best Sunshine will be establishing a "live training" facility at the T Galleria in Garapan and earlier disclosed that it will be opening up 500 jobs.

Aside from the temporary ca-

sino, the company will also start work on a hotel in another Garapan area.

"I met with some of the management of Best Sunshine and, from what I gathered, there were only a hundred applicants," Sablan said.

He said he is "concerned" with the low turnout. "Where are our manpower, how come

they are not applying for jobs opportunities?" Sablan asked.

As a lawmaker, Sablan said he wants to weigh in if legislation will be needed to address this apparent labor shortage.

He stressed that he is not against nonresident workers, and that if need be, he will vote for an extension of the CW program, which is set to end in De-

cember 2019.

"I want to encourage all locals to apply, whether it is a dealer, a bellhop, an attendant, a receptionist, or a waiter," Sablan said, noting that he does not want the economy to "collapse" due to a manpower shortage.

"Our locals are not as aggressive as they should be [in applying for the jobs]," Sablan said,

adding that he wants locals to "not be discouraged."

Lawmakers on Tuesday approved a proposed amendment to a zoning law that would allow Best Sunshine to establish the temporary casino on Garapan.

Best Sunshine will now be allowed to set up the casino within 200 feet of certain establishments such as playgrounds, parks, churches, and other establishments—instead of 300 feet as specified in Saipan Local Law 18-05, the "original" zoning law.

## Nepalese in the CNMI ask for earthquake relief assistance

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
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REPORTER

The Nepalese community in the CNMI is reaching out to the CNMI community to seek aid for their countrymen back home following last Saturday's massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake that has claimed the lives of more than 4,000 people.

In a letter being circulated throughout the Commonwealth, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort employee Renuka S. Dangol is urging everyone to make any amount of donations for those affected by the temblor.

"You may have heard about the massive earthquake, this has caused a heavy destruction to our country. More than 4,400 people lost their lives, thousands of people are injured and thousands remain homeless. So our community is humbly asking for help," wrote Dangol.

## 'Ice' charges vs ex-CHC staff dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed yesterday the charges filed against former Commonwealth Health Center administrative staff Berlinda C. Flawau, who was accused of conspiring with former Rota Finance Procurement and Supply acting administrator Tilford S. Toves to traffic methamphetamine or "ice."

Camacho dismissed with prejudice the case against Flawau after Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas moved to drop the case yesterday.

Dismissed with prejudice means the government cannot re-file the case against the defendant.

In the government's motion, Rapadas said: "Based upon information and belief, certain critical evidence will not be available for trial and therefore the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice that the charges filed in this case be dismissed with prejudice."

In January 2015, the government amended for the fourth time the superseding information filed against Flawau that contained the same charges but changes the date of the alleged offense.

The superseding information charged the defendant with one count of trafficking of a controlled substance, one

Dangol said all the proceeds will go to the Nepalese service agencies providing direct assistance to victims of the earthquake.

Dangol also wrote down key contacts on who to call to give donations to. CNMI residents can contact Dangol at 285-1028, Manju Pandey at 287-9023, Sandhya Panthi at 287-4020, and Raj Kumar Rai at 789-2735. Donations may also be brought to Java Joe's in San Vicente.

"The Nepalese community of Saipan would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those on island for their prayers and continued support for all those affected by this horrible tragedy," Dangol said.

Even as the call for donations are coming through, many Nepalese on Saipan are still unnerved about the fate of their loved ones back home

Panthi confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that several Nepalese on Saipan are still having trouble contacting family members.

"I am not sure if there are any other casualties. I have not contacted the Nepalese community on Tinian yet, so I am not sure about any deaths yet," she said.

She said her family is safe

but their house is damaged, forcing her family to remain outside their home.

"I talked to them on Sunday night and they told me they can't go inside because they are scared to enter. I haven't contacted them since then because there isn't any power there," Panthi said.

While her immediate family is safe, she still has other relatives and close family members who she hasn't contacted yet.

"I have spoke with the other residents from Nepal here and some of them are still having a hard time trying to contact their family and they are really worried," she said.



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# Applications due today for NMC's Summer Academy

The Northern Marianas College is reminding all high school juniors, seniors and their parents that applications for the Summer Academy are due today, April 30, 2015. The admission application can be dropped to the Office of Admissions & Records, and the FAFSA and CACG applications to the Financial Aid Office.

The Summer Academy affords high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while they are earning transferable college credits. The academy familiarizes students with college life while they are still in high school and can be an excellent way to help students prepare for their eventual transition to college after graduation.

In addition to college level work, participants of the Summer Academy will also receive college advising, academic tutoring, and college-preparatory and life skills training.

The program is funded by the College Access Challenge Grant, which aims to increase the number of underserved

and minority students who are enrolling in college. To do this, the CACG provides a scholarship award to eligible students to cover the cost of their courses.

The Summer Academy for students will run from June 29, 2015, through Aug. 7, 2015. Although classes for the Summer Academy will be held at NMC's

As Terlaje campus, some activities will be located off-campus and will be announced in advance. Eligibility for participation in the Summer Academy is based on family income and the ability to meet NMC admissions and financial aid requirements.

For more information about the Summer Academy, contact

Hedwig Hofsneider at 234-5498 Ext. 6784 or email hedwig.hofsneider@marianas.edu or Theresa Worswick at Ext. 6787 or email theresa.worswick@marianas.edu or Christine Inos at Ext. 6782 or email christine.inos@marianas.edu. Application forms and other materials can be downloaded from www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

## CULTURE

*From Page 1*

tary has to shed light on why it seems to be hell-bent on picking these islands in the CNMI, particularly Pagan, to drop bombs, all in the name of defense.

Most of the sentiments were quite emotional and spoke of preserving—and not destroying—the local Chamorro culture, which to many remains sacred.

Other statements attempted to offer scientific reasons why the islands should be left alone, from the destruction of a fragile ecosystem to the long-term effects of bombings on humans.

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan spoke of how the CNMI has had previous experiences with the U.S military during World War II, and that up to the present day, the detrimental effects of that war continue to be felt.

"The dead dolphin washing up in one of the islands is just one evidence that those bombs and munitions from war are still affecting our CNMI," he said.

Military representatives put up posters and standees all over the cafeteria of the Saipan Southern High School to attempt to explain what the draft EIS is all about. An obligatory platoon of courteous military representatives was also at hand, ready to answer questions from whomever would ask.

Outside, several groups held up banners and posters expressing their opposition to the military's proposals.

A second hearing will be held today on Tinian at the Junior/Senior High School cafeteria and another on Friday, back on Saipan at the Garapan Elementary School.

And based on the public's sentiment on the first hearing, the U.S military still has a lot of explaining to do.



The public hearing on a draft environmental impact statement on military activities drew a huge crowd at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria last night.  
JOEL D. PINAROC



An elementary student reads her testimony opposing plans to bomb Tinian and Pagan.  
JOEL D. PINAROC

## LIMES

*From Page 1*

chief medical examiner Dr. Au- relio Espinola did the autopsy on Limes' remains at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue.

It was reported that an axe was used to kill the 52-year-old Limes, but DPS has yet to confirm it.

In Sablan's case, *Saipan Tribune* learned that even shortly before the 43-year-old Sablan was taken to court for the hearing yesterday, he was already

acting strangely at the Department of Corrections.

Inside the courtroom, Sablan was mumbling and talking to himself. He called Kim-Tenorio by her first name and said something about candles, grave, and other things.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds said Sablan was not doing anything violent in court but was talking aloud to himself and was aggressive with himself.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, who appeared as counsel for Sablan, agreed to the continuance.

At his initial appearance in court last April 2, Hinds revealed that Sablan is a person of interest in the murder of his wife, Limes.

Last April 21, police arrested Sablan for illegal possession of a controlled substance, disturbing the peace, and criminal trespass for allegedly harassing the Lisua family in Oleai on Sunday midnight, April 19.

Limes, a former staff assistant of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), was found dead inside her house in Oleai on April 20 shortly after noon.

Police said Limes showed

signs of having been deceased for some time already, with fatal injuries to the head.

Police detective Rudolfo Siques Hermosilla Jr. stated in his report that when a police officer arrested Sablan last April 19 for disturbing the Lisua family, he noticed what appeared to be bloodstains on Sablan's pants. The officer also saw scratches on Sablan's abdomen.

As of yesterday, no charges have been filed against Sablan for the murder of Limes. Sources said investigators have to send first some evidence in this case to an off-island laboratory.

## BSI

*From Page 1*

\$500,000 to DPL consisting of \$250,000 as security deposit and \$250,000 as a first year advance.

The security deposit is now being required of new investors, Tenorio said.

He also said the advance payment of \$250,000 or 5 percent of the value, will be the rental payment for the first five years.

The advance payment is a "unique" arrangement that DPL has with Best Sunshine, Tenorio said.

At the end of the first five years, and subsequent two- to five-year periods, the land will be appraised and the new rental will apply, Tenorio said.

The area will be used for a 5-star hotel and casino that Best Sunshine will build.

## Projections

Tenorio said the company is anticipating to invest \$400 million on the 250-room, 5-star hotel that will have a casino, restaurant, nightclubs, and other facilities.

The official said another "unique" arrangement with Best Sunshine is that on the

16th year, business gross receipts will apply as rental, and that business gross revenue will include the casino activities' total income and businesses conducted not only on the public land but also on businesses conducted on private land as well.

With this arrangement, Tenorio said from year 16 to 25, the estimated rental income, based on business gross of the company, could be as much as \$16 million.

After 40 years, the revenue to the DPL could be as much as \$84 million, Tenorio projected.

In addition, to the 19,154-square-meter public land, Best Sunshine also has another private land lease for 20,000 square meters for the hotel casino.

Mark Brown, CEO of Best Sunshine, said the company "will work full steam ahead."

He said there is only one more obstacle ahead and it is the major siting permit that Best Sunshine has to secure.

But the executive said "everything is in place," and that the site has already been cleared.

Brown said Best Sunshine will "reveal" how the hotel will look like in a zoning board hearing later today.

# Judge OKs psychiatric evaluation for Mathewson

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted yesterday the request of assistant public defender Michael Sato to appoint a psychiatrist who will examine his client, William Kapono Mathewson, a 36-year-old man charged with beating and stabbing Dr. Francois Claassens with a fishing spear in the neck.

Camacho approved a \$1,500 cap for the expense.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda, counsel for the government, did not oppose Sato's request.

Sato mentioned they are

looking at a Hawaii psychiatrist to evaluate Mathewson and prepare a report.

The judge suggested using Skype for at least the initial evaluation to save time and expenses.

Camacho set a status conference for June 10 at 9am.

In asking for the appointment of a psychiatrist, Sato disclosed that Mathewson will rely on the defense of insanity at the time when he committed the alleged crime.

Sato said a psychiatrist is needed to determine whether his client was suffering from a mental illness at the time of the offense.

Mathewson, a farmer/fisher-



man, allegedly stabbed the 60-year-old Claassens in the neck with a fishing spear and clubbed him on the head with a big pot and chain.

The brutal attack happened in the backyard of the doctor's house in Tene-to Village on Rota last April 4. Mathewson's house is located near the doctor's residence.

Claassens is now slowly recovering from his injuries. There are plans to move him to Hawaii for further rehabilitation. Mathewson's family is in Hawaii.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

William Kapono Mathewson walks with a court marshal on the way to the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for a hearing yesterday afternoon on his counsel's request to appoint a psychiatrist to examine him. Mathewson is facing charges for beating and stabbing Dr. Francois Claassens with a fishing spear in the neck.

## IN WRONGFUL DEATH SUIT OVER DROWNING

### Tasi Tours files a cross claim against the Win Tour agency

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Tasi Tours and Transportation Inc. has filed a cross claim for contribution against a tour agency that brought to Managaha Island a female Chinese tourist who drowned while snorkeling off the island in 2012.

Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, asserted that although Tasi denies any liability to Dao Wang's father, Xiao Ting Wang, Tasi may be compelled to pay a judgment rendered in favor of Wang.

In Tasi Tours' cross claim, Kosack said any such judgment should be paid in whole or in part by Man Bao Corp., which owns of Win Tour.

Kosack said Win Tour sold Dao a tour to Managaha and thus she was a customer of that company. Win Tour brought Dao to Managaha and rented her a snorkel and mask. Kosack said Win Tour instructed Dao as to the area in the water where to snorkel.

He said Win Tour had a duty to Dao in instruct her in the use of a snorkel and mask, but the tour agency breached this duty.

Kosack said Win Tour had a duty to watch over Dao as she snorkeled to ensure that she did not suffer injury or death.

"Win Tour breached this duty," the lawyer asserted.

Wang, 66, as personal representative of his daughter, Dao, is suing Tasi Tours and Man Bao Corp., which owns Win Tour. He asked the federal court to hold the two companies liable to pay him unspecified damages.

In Tasi Tours' cross claim, Kosack said in the event the plaintiff's allegations are proven true, Dao's death was the direct and proximate result of Win Tour's breach of one or more of its duties.

Thus, Kosack said, in the

event that Tasi Tours is found liable to Wang as a result of the allegations in the lawsuit, and in the event it is determined that Win Tour and Tasi are jointly liable, then Tasi has a right to contribution from Win Tour for all such damages, liabilities, costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees.

Aside from its cross claim, Tasi Tours also filed its answer and affirmative defenses to Wang's lawsuit.

In Tasi Tours' defenses, Kosack said Wang is barred from any recovery from Tasi, in that any injury of Dao, the death of Dao, and the damages sustained in this matter were the direct result of Dao's own conduct, or the conduct of persons other than Tasi.

Kosack said Tasi's negligence, if any, must be compared against the negligence and/or conduct of others, including the negligence of Dao and Tasi's co-defendant.

Kosack said Tasi's liability, if any, for Dao's injuries, must be reduced by the amount to which others are responsible for plaintiff's injuries.

He said Dao assumed the risk of harm by engaging in the snorkeling activities.

Kosack said as any and all acts of omissions by Tasi and by any of its employee, as it relates to Dao, were in good faith, were not grossly negligent, and constituted emergency care, Tasi is not liable for any damages under CNMI law.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently ruled that Tasi Tours owed a duty of reasonable care to Dao.

"Whether deploying life-guards to watch the area in which Dao drowned would have been reasonable...is a jury question," said Manglona in denying Tasi Tours' motion to dismiss Wang's lawsuit.

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The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, also known as HANMI, celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, marking three decades of partnership with the local government and community with a series of celebration activities.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the CNMI. Today the association is composed of 11 of the major hotels in the Northern Marianas serving a diversity of markets including Korea, Japan, China, and Russia. The association also has a growing number of associate members in related industries.

HANMI members account for most of the hotel rooms in the Northern Marianas. Last year, HANMI members contributed \$13.2 million in hotel occupancy tax to government coffers, as well as \$4.4 million in gross revenue receipts. The hotel industry is the largest private employer in the CNMI, with HANMI members currently employing about 1,600 employees.

"For the last 30 years, HANMI has played a vital role in the CNMI economy," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "For example, two years ago Marianas Visitors Authority was limited in promoting our destination properly due to budget constraints. HANMI helped push for an increase of our hotel occupancy tax, ensuring that MVA would receive the major-

# HANMI celebrates 30 years

ity of these funds. Thanks to the foresight of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislature, this became public law in April 2013. We can see the dramatic difference in the community since, with the increase of visitor arrivals and the ongoing destination enhancement programs on all three islands."

In celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, HANMI will donate

a portion of its proceeds each week from the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden to a designated community group. A student logo contest will also be announced shortly to kick off the year's celebration activities, which will include an anniversary gala later this year.

"Our economic contributions—and the accompanying trickledown effect and indirect economic impact—are certainly an important part of what HANMI does for the Commonwealth," said Cavanagh. "However, what is also

important are the people. This includes our valued employees who have worked 24-7 to deliver a high level of service for our visitors so they enjoy their visit and want to come again. It includes the community groups we have worked with through the years, through donations or other forms of sponsorship, to make our islands a better

place to live. And it includes all those who benefit from us being in business, whether it's local families coming out to enjoy our restaurants or government workers supported by our taxes. HANMI's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a celebration of what we have done together to build a stronger Commonwealth and bring us to where we are today."

For more anniversary celebration details, visit HANMI's Facebook page: HANMI's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (*HANMI*)



HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, fourth from right, poses with top finishers of the Saipan Marathon on April 25, 2015. As part of its regular annual donations, HANMI supports the annual signature event with cash prizes for the top marathon winners, operation of several aid stations by member hotels, and supplies including paper cups and sponges.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE CNMI JOINT MILITARY TRAINING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The U.S. military announces the availability of the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) for public review. The Draft EIS/OEIS evaluates the potential impacts associated with the establishment of a series of live-fire ranges, training courses and maneuver areas in the CNMI (Tinian and Pagan) to reduce existing joint service training deficiencies and meet U.S. Pacific Command Service Components' unfilled unit and combined level training requirements in the Western Pacific. Existing military training areas and support facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI are insufficient to support U.S. military training requirements. U.S. military training capabilities and capacity improvements are needed in the CNMI to ensure that the U.S. military can meet their U.S. Code Title 10 requirements to maintain, equip, and train combat and humanitarian forces in the Western Pacific.

The publication of the Notice of Public Meetings in the Federal Register on April 3, 2015 initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment period for the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft EIS/OEIS. Comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS may be submitted during the 60-day public comment period starting on April 3, 2015 Hawaii Standard Time (HST) (April 4, 2015 Chamorro Standard Time (ChST)). Comments should be postmarked or received by June 2, 2015 HST (June 3, 2015 ChST). Government agencies, private-sector organizations, and the public are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process and public meetings for the Draft EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Marine Corps on behalf of U.S. Pacific Command will host public meetings on Saipan and Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the following public meetings:

### SAIPAN:

- Wednesday, April 29, 2015  
Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria  
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Friday, May 1, 2015  
Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria  
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

### TINIAN:

- Thursday, April 30, 2015  
Tinian Junior Senior High School Cafeteria  
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Each meeting will begin with an open house session where the public can learn more about the proposed action and potential environmental impacts from project team members and subject matter experts. A public hearing will follow the open house. In the interest of available time, participants will be limited to three minutes to ensure all who wish to submit verbal comments have an opportunity to do so. A Chamorro and Carolinian interpreter will be available.

Concurrent with the NEPA process, the U.S. military is conducting National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation regarding potential effects of the proposed action on historic properties. During each of the above meetings, the U.S. military will hold NHPA Section 106 information sessions in a separate area where subject matter experts will explain the NHPA Section 106 process and solicit public input on the effects of the proposed action on historic properties.

There are three ways to submit written comments: (1) providing comments at one of the public meetings; (2) submitting comments through the project website: [www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com](http://www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com); and (3) mailing comments postmarked by June 3, 2015 ChST to:

**Mail comments to:** Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific  
Attn: 09PA, Public Affairs Office  
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100  
JBPHH, HI 96860-3134

## Express Financial is newest sponsor of 2015 MMAC



Marianas March Against Cancer public relations committee chair Chris Concepcion—joined by other MMAC committee members and Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and board—receives \$500 from Express Financial area manager James Matsumoto and his staff.

Express Financial has signed on as a contributing sponsor of the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer after donating \$500 to the Commonwealth Cancer Association's annual signature fundraising event.

This is the first time for the company to donate to the MMAC.

"We are able to make this donation due to our many loyal customers and hardworking Express Financial staff," James Matsumoto, area manager for Express Financial, said.

"After being open for only two years, we feel blessed to be in a position to donate to this very worthy cause. We look forward to supporting the MMAC again in the future," he added.

Chris A. Concepcion, vice chair for 2015 MMAC public relations committee, said they would like to extend their gratitude to Express Financial for their contribution in the fight against cancer.

"Their support will be used locally on cancer patient assis-

tance and awareness programs so we congratulate them on becoming our newest sponsor," Concepcion said.

This year's march will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field from Friday night until Saturday morning.

Businesses, individuals, and organizations that still wish to support the 2015 MMAC may donate funds, services, or raffle items. For donations, call Nola Hix at 989-6652 or email her at [nola.hix@gmail.com](mailto:nola.hix@gmail.com). (*Jayson Camacho*)

FRAULEINE MICHELLE VILLANUEVA

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is hugged by a smiling *man'amkó* after the signing of the proclamation for the Older Americans Month at the Office of Aging yesterday.

## May is Older Americans Month

By FRAULEINE MICHELLE S.

VILLANUEVA  
frauleine\_villanueva@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Office on Aging kicked off its celebration of Older Americans Month/Mes Man'Amko in May with a proclamation signing yesterday.

In line with the Older Americans Act, which marks its 50th anniversary this year, the office will be staging a number of activities for the benefit of the *man'amkó* (elderly).

This year's theme, "Get into the Act," means getting everyone to participate in making their own and other people's lives better.

According to Aging Office director Walter Manglona, they are focusing on how senior citizens are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in their lives and the lives of others.

They are also advancing the understanding of healthier living and dealing with issues like the prevention of elder abuse.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who signed the proclamation and witnessed the occasion with some lawmakers, said he is grateful for the seniors who were the teachers of his generation.

"You provided us guidance and direction in life. Now it is our turn to take those lessons of compassion and care and use them to treat you all with respect and to care for you," he added.

There are about 5,000 senior citizens in the CNMI, according to the 2010 Census.

The celebrations will kick off on May 1 with the annual off-island trip for the *man'amkó* to Managaha, which gives them the opportunity to congregate and have fun outside of the center.

Three sports activities will be held: bowling, pool, and an interisland golf tournament.

They will also hold bingo games every Wednesday of May, the Man'Amko King and Queen competition, and a concert on May 8 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center that will see them partnered with the manhoben (youth) for the first time.

"This is the first time that we're actually going to have the seniors and the youth combined together and do a program together," Manglona said.

The proclamation was read in English, Chamorro, and Carolinian versions by clients Rosario Ibañez, Margaret Aldan, and Vicente Laniyo, respectively.

"I would like to thank our leaders, donors and everyone who supported our *man'amkó* throughout the years," Manglona added.



## PSS gets \$310K grant for Connecting Youth to Jobs

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has awarded \$310,000 from the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program to a public-private project that connects high school-aged students to private-sector careers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The joint project—co-sponsored by the Public School System and the Chambers of Commerce of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—will help expand the citizen workforce through co-operative education and on-the-job training that will lead to employment in CNMI's growing tourism economy.

"I applaud Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System for working with the Chamber of Commerce and public high schools to provide job training opportunities for CNMI youth," said Kia'aina. "As the CNMI considers long-term workforce needs through increased immigration to meet the de-

mand of its growing tourism industry, it is important to ensure that they do everything possible to develop and implement a local workforce development strategy."

The "Connecting Youth to Jobs" program begins with a rigorous college and career-focused curriculum along with co-operative education, job shadowing, and on-the-job training where students earn as they learn and graduate from high school career-ready.

Recent data from the CNMI show that more than 50 percent of jobs in the private sector are held by non-resident workers. The goal of this program is to increase the U.S. citizen workforce by linking youth to jobs in the CNMI as part of preparing them to be college- and career-ready. Projections show that across a 10-year period of youth training, 3,000 youth will be employed in the private sector, which would be more than 10 percent of the current labor force. (OIA)

## SLOGAN CONTEST!

Join the 2015 CNMI  
Liberation Day Committee's Slogan Contest !

\$500

\$500  
CASH PRIZE  
FOR THE  
WINNER!

The 2015 Liberation Day Committee invites the public to submit their creative ideas for the official slogan for the 70th Anniversary Liberation Festivities!

Slogans should represent the positive attributes and significance of this year's celebration. Deadline to submit slogans with name and contact information is before 4:00pm on Monday, May 4th at Saipan Mayor's Office or liberationcnmi@gmail.com.

Thank You and Good Luck!



# Spay and neuter clinics on Saipan this May

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan Dog Control Program, Humane Society International, and Animal Balance will conduct a low cost spay and neuter clinic on Saipan from May 19 to May 29, 2015.

Spay and neuter vouchers are now available for \$25 at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan on the

<b>PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID</b>	
<b>ITB NO.: ITB15-DPW-087</b>	
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2015 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.	
<b>"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL, FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"</b>	
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.	
THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.	
/S/ JAMES A. ADA SECRETARY OF DPW	/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN  
DOG SPAY-NEUTER VOUCHER  
(\$25 SUGGESTED DONATION)**

OWNER (first & last name) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE 1: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CALL 670-234-6208 to schedule your appointment  
More info: [www.facebook.com/  
Saipancares](http://www.facebook.com/Saipancares)

DOG'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash  Check

VOUCHER # \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST SUNSHINE** 太平洋娛樂

**HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL**

**ANIMAL BALANCE**

See back for pre/post surgery details

Spay and neuter vouchers are now available for \$25.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CRIME OF THE WEEK

# Info sought on missing Yamada sisters

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for any information on two missing Japanese sisters.

On July 1, 2014 at about 10:31am, police responded to Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi, Saipan for a missing persons complaint. Police learned that the two victims arrived on Saipan on June 28, 2014. The victims rented a room at the Marianas Resort and a Blue 2010 Toyota RAV4 from a car rental company.

The missing women, Chinatsu Yamada, age 26, and her sister, Natsuki Yamada, age 23, were scheduled to depart on June 30, 2014, at 6am but never showed up to the airport for their flight. A search of their room revealed that the victims left one brown colored



Natsuki Yamada, right, and her sister, Chinatsu Yamada, went missing on June 30, 2014.

luggage (padlocked), credit cards, cash, and jewelry inside the safe box and some toiletries in the hotel drawers. In the room by the television there was an open empty box with a

picture of a blue six-foot two-man inflatable raft that was missing from the room.

The Blue Toyota RAV4 was later discovered at Wing Beach that same day north of Mariana

Resort. Both victims were not in the area. DPS Boating Safety units and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Search and Rescue Unit were activated to assist in searching for the missing women. The inflatable raft was found intact and with no puncture holes on it, on July 2, 2015, by a U.S. Coast Guard plane 32 nautical miles southeast of Saipan. The girls are still missing.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net). Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (*Crime Stoppers*)

of 2015, they will begin accepting applications starting May 1. Application forms are available on their website. July 1 is the deadline for applications, while Sept. 30 is the deadline for supporting documents.

"All ongoing and returning applicants must also submit a new application and memorandum of agreement for this upcoming term," Rasa said. (*Jayson Camacho*)

## More than 1K SHEFA applicants for spring 2015

### »SHEFA to start accepting applications on May 1, deadline July 1

applicants are from the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

SHEFA received 361 new applicants, 500 ongoing applicants, and 217 returning applicants.

"The number of approved applicants as of March 19, is 482, while 596 were denied. We distributed \$813,000 worth of awards for spring 2015," Rasa said.

In fall 2014, there were about

1,221 applications. The turnout for this year's spring semester is a little less.

As of now SHEFA collected a total of \$61,332.23.

The 33 applicants under NMTI were all denied for incomplete application packages, despite missing document notices being sent to all the applicants.

Rasa said for the fall semester

tal care classes at CHCC's Women, Infant, and Children Program, which is invitation only. On May 14 there will be a self-defense class. Contact 287-7718 to register.

On May 16 there will be a healthy cooking demo at the WIC clinic. From May 18 to 21 there will be lunch hour walks at the American Memorial Park from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

On May 22, "Walk in Our Shoes" will include men to experience pregnancy by participating in a three-mile race at the Garapan Fishing Base. CHCC will visit the Department of Public Health to provide health services.

The final celebration on May 28 will have a Let's Move Zumba Party at the Garapan Central Park from 6pm to 9pm. Screenings will be available before the Zumba class starting at 4:30pm.

## DPH urges women to join celebration of Women's Health Month

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
[jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

30 minutes, six days per week can reduce the risk of dying from these conditions by 50 percent.

Women in the CNMI can promote health and prevent disease and illness by taking simple steps to improve their physical, mental, social, and spiritual health by not smoking, chewing betel nut with or without tobacco, eating nutritious meals, being physically active and receiving regular medical checkups.

DPHS has lined up activities for the month of May. On May 4 at 9am at CHCC conference room 3, there will be a proclamation signing for the inaugural CNMI Women's Health Month. On May 6 there will be an invitation-only breakfast club, which will serve as a forum for exchanging health

information and statistics promoting DPHS-MCHB community-driven projects, developing strategic contacts, and increasing the visibility of health-driven women.

On May 9, from 10am to 12pm, there will be celebrity bagging at all four Joeten Shopping Centers, where incentives will be given to families who purchase at least five fruits or vegetables, while supplies last.

On May 10, from 10am to 11am, there will be a Mother's Day Mass at St. Jude Parish.

May 11, from 8am to 4pm, will be Woman's Health Day. This will be at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center and will include presenters and exhibits. Health services will be offered as well.

On May 12, there will be a prena-

## Bank of Saipan

### Statement of Financial Condition (at the close of business December 31, 2014) (in thousands of dollars)

ASSETS	2014
Cash and due from banks	\$ 13,793
Interest bearing deposits in other banks	\$ 200
Investment securities	\$ 628
Loans (net)	\$ 10,457
Accrued interest receivable	\$ 60
Other assets	\$ 594
Premises and equipment (net)	\$ 215
Foreclosed real estate (net)	\$ 33
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$25,980</b>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	
Deposits:	
Non-interest bearing	\$ 11,293
Interest bearing	\$ 9,502
Total deposits	\$ 20,795
Accrued interest payable	\$ 35
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	\$ 63
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$20,893</b>
Shareholders Equity:	
Common Stock	\$ 2,507
Additional paid in capital	\$ 6,075
Accumulated deficit	\$ (939)
Treasury stock	\$ (2,556)
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 5,087</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$25,980</b>

Audited financial statements are available for review at the Office of Director of Banking

# NMC board did not request AG opinion on term dates

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General told Gov. Eloy S. Inos this month that two seats held by Northern Marianas College regents have been "vacant" since 2014, and that "appointments must be made to fill the vacancies."

However, interviews with board chair Juan T. Lizama and board member William Torres reveal that the board did not re-

quest this clarification.

Turns out Inos had already reappointed the "vacant" seats of board members Elaine Orilla and Torres. And that college president Dr. Sharon Hart and Lizama were the only ones to know about the requested opinion.

Four board members petitioned Lizama to hold a special meeting last Friday to discuss the AG's opinion. Hart and Lizama, who appointed Orilla as vice chair at the meeting, were off-island.

During the meeting, Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he made it clear on record that he disputed the AG's opinion and that he would put it to a certified question in the Supreme Court.

"But we don't need to do that," he told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend. Instead, he noted some salient facts confirmed by Lizama in an interview on Tuesday—that the board had not sought the AG's opinion on office terms through official action, and that if they had, the

chairman of the board, Lizama, should have been copied in the letter addressed to Inos.

The AG's April 15 letter reads: "The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents raised concerns about the staggered terms of its members."

"Specifically, the board sought clarification regarding the date upon which a new appointee's term begins to run: predetermined dates as established by the 1986 appointments or the date on which an

appointee is confirmed."

The AG's office said that practice has been to use the confirmation dates of new appointees to determine the beginning and end dates for the four-year terms.

But as a result, the purported expiration dates for the NMC Board of Regents are "erroneous and must be corrected."

The AG clarified that Torres and Orilla held seats that, according to the staggered term dates, had since expired.

Torres holds the seat first held by Sister Mary Balzarena, a four-year term starting in 1986.

Orilla holds the seat first held by Isaac Calvo, also a four-year term starting in 1986. Other terms drawn in 1986 varied from two- to three-year terms.

Based on these staggered dates, the AG found that the terms of Torres and Orilla had "since expired and they are no longer members of the Board."

"New appointments or re-appointments must be made to fill these vacancies," the AG wrote.

In an interview, Lizama said this letter did not have to be an "issue."

He said the letter should not have required the calling of a special meeting, and that it should be discussed in a regular session.

He hopes the next meeting set for May 7 would look at the matter "calmly, amicably, and professionally."

Asked to clarify the AG's statement that the NMC board had shared concerns with the office on the terms, he indicated that the board did not.

He said, "You've gotta ask the AG that."

Lizama said that Hart had made him aware of the issue. He explained that Hart was concerned over accreditation requirements that were "very strict" on staggered term dates.

"My take is, if she did [seek the AG's opinion], I think she is working on WASC requirements," he said. That was what the president was trying to correct, he added.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that after the special meeting on Friday, board members sought an audience with Inos on the matter.

Hart could not be contacted as of press time yesterday. It was gathered she was off-island.

Similarly, a message left with the AG's public information officer was not returned as of press time.

## Cha Café and Bakery holds grand opening today

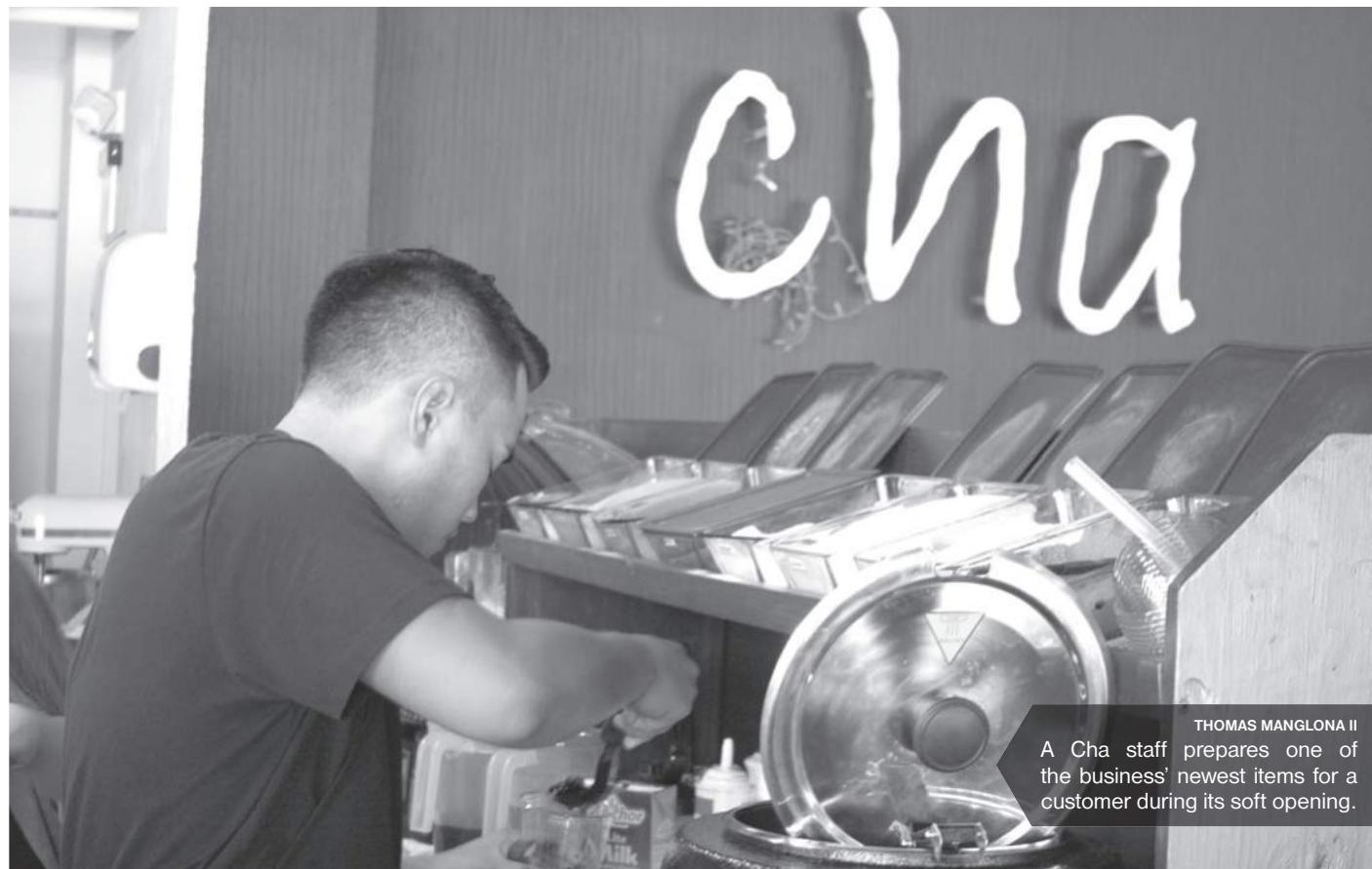
By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

Cha Café and Bakery is holding its grand opening today, Thursday, after the business moved a few doors down to a larger space at the Garapan corner building on Beach Road. The move and expansion takes place after two years of serving locals and tourists with a mouth-watering menu ranging from pearl shakes to frappes and now, pastries. With its rebranding, the Los Angeles-inspired hip, urban, boardwalk cafe will be serving a variety of pastries and freshly brewed coffee seven days a week from 7am to 10pm.

"We felt that due to our popularity with both locals and tourists, we had to expand," business owner John Lee told *Saipan Tribune*. "Moving to a bigger space next door made sense. Now customers are able to sit and enjoy their drinks. Additionally, our spot at Garapan's best location brings us more exposure to potential customers who've never tried Cha."

Lee, a law and business student, explained that the business' goal since its conception was to develop a brand that can out-compete world brands. To meet that standard, innovation was imperative.

"We had...to hold a standard far above what the island is used to. We are most excited that we raised the bar and that other businesses realize that they, too, must do better in order to do sur-



THOMAS MANGLONA II  
A Cha staff prepares one of the business' newest items for a customer during its soft opening.

vive and thrive here on Saipan."

He considers the business to be original in many aspects and urges the community to try Cha's comprehensive menu and be the judge. Some of its

### » Lee: 'We raised the bar'

menu's newest additions are blueberry cheesecake, banana walnut bread, and chocolate chip cookies.

A business that would normally fit 10 people comfortably

now has 50 seats and free WiFi that is sure to make the Cha experience a jubilant one.

In a previous interview, Lee said that making customers happy is his primary goal.

"We are focusing on making customers happy. The standards we have are comparable to the best cafés in New York," he said. "When I was planning to open the business I knew that there were a lot of

risks and benefits. In the end, the benefits outweighed the risks."

For this young entrepreneur, it is passion over profit.

"I did not expect it to come this far," he added.

Cha's dedication to the island goes beyond the glass doors of the establishment. The business hires a number of island youth and even provides academic

scholarships for its employees. With its rebranding, the cafe and bakery has 20 employees and plans to hire more young adults.

Lee attributes Cha's success to each of its customers. "We started in a hole-in-the-wall but came this far only through hard work and fortune," he said. "We hope to make Saipan proud and ask for their continued support."

## Ayuda Network moves to Capital Hill

The Ayuda Network, Inc. has moved to Capital Hill, Building #1233, at the Domestic Violence Intervention Center. The Ayuda Network extends its special thanks to Mayor

David M. Apatang and his staff; DPW Secretary James A. Ada and his staff, DCCA Division of Youth Services and its staff, and the Family Violence Task Force volunteers for

their support in assisting the Ayuda Network in relocating to its new office. The Ayuda Network phone line has been changed to 322-7469, fax line to 322-7468. (*Ayuda*)

## Agricultural Fair Rule books now out

Information about all the offerings for the 2015 Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair can be found in its premium books, which are available online as well as in print. These books contain not only descriptions of each event, but also specify their rules and regulations. Print copies are available at the Agriculture office in Kagman, NMC CREES in As Terlaje, Animal Health Indus-

try office in As Perido, and the Farmer's Public Market in Garapan. They can also be found online at [www.crees.org](http://www.crees.org)

The Agricultural Fair is slated for Saturday, June 27. Prizes for the plant category total \$7,000 while animal category shall reach \$4,000. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to start preparing their crops and livestock for entry, and need to pre-register.

The association is also selling advertisement pages to help pay costs. SAFA is seeking for the following sponsorships: Platinum, \$5,000; Gold, \$3,000; Silver, \$2,000; and Bronze, \$1,000. Interested donors may contact SAFA at 664-8512.

The 2015 Agricultural Fair will take place on Saturday, June 27, at the 4-H Building in Susupe. For general inquiries, call DLNR at 322-9834. (*PR*)



THOMAS MANGLONA II  
Aside from a new menu and services, Cha Café and Bakery also has a new logo.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### North Korea, Iran and bitter lessons

**W**hat's North Korea done lately besides rage against Hollywood over the "The Interview"? Build more nuclear bombs. According to a recent Wall Street Journal report, Chinese nuclear experts have told some American counterparts that North Korea's nuclear weapons stockpile is larger than previously estimated and expanding quickly. Kim Jong Un could possess 20 nuclear warheads, plus the capacity to have double that number by next year, the Chinese warned in closed-door meetings earlier this year.

No one knows for certain what the secretive regime in Pyongyang is up to, but the Chinese have the closest ties to the North. Their estimate outstrips the U.S. consensus, which says North Korea has 10 to 16 bombs plus the ability to produce several more each year.

One U.S. expert, Siegfried Hecker, former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, told the Journal that China's higher number count matters: "The more (the North Koreans) believe they have a fully functional arsenal and deterrent, the more difficult it's going to be to walk them back from that."

You can question the estimates, but that obscures the larger point: The North Korean nuclear threat is real and growing. Joel Wit, a North Korea expert at Johns Hopkins University, co-authored a report this year that says Kim could have anywhere from 20 to 100 nuclear bombs within five years.

Earlier this month, U.S. Adm. William Gortney, commander of NORAD, said he believes the North Koreans have the capacity to put a nuclear weapon on a mobile missile launcher and shoot it at the U.S. mainland. The North Koreans haven't tested the KN-08 intercontinental missile, so maybe it doesn't work. But miniaturizing a warhead is a technological feat of its own.

That's sobering news about North Korea and a stark lesson about how the world is dealing with a would-be nuclear threat. Long before the world's powers began negotiations with Iran over its incipient nuclear program, there was Pyongyang's defiant, wily leadership using brinkmanship and lies as its primary tool of diplomacy.

Here's a short history of past nuclear negotiations with the North (spoiler alert, they all fail):

1994: North Korea signs the Agreed Framework, promising to shut down its nuclear development program in exchange for energy. Within years North Korea is secretly enriching uranium.

2005: "Six-party talks" result in a new North Korea promise to end its nuclear program. The next year, the country tests its first nuclear bomb.

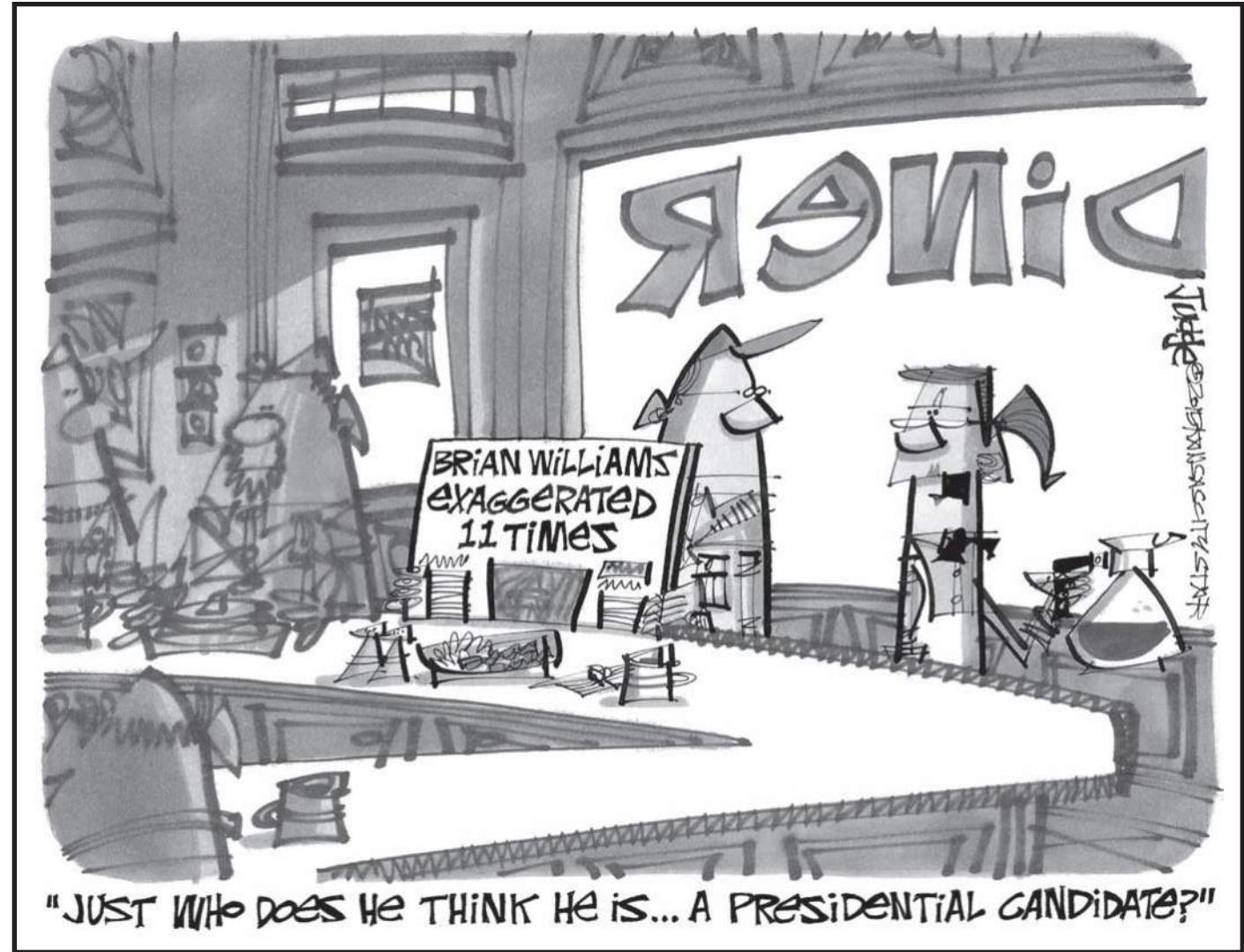
2012: After the collapse of previous negotiations, Pyongyang agrees to suspend nuclear testing and enrichment in exchange for aid. In early 2013 North Korea tests its third nuclear bomb. There have been no talks since, just bluster.

And now comes word of the assessment from China that North Korea could have as many as 20 nuclear warheads.

Paper agreements with North Korea were worthless because the world couldn't verify that the rogue nation was living up to its word. North Korea doesn't care much that the world has tried to squeeze it with economic sanctions, and it possesses the threat of nuclear retaliation should any nation attempt military action.

Keep that in mind as the U.S. and other world powers negotiate with Iran.

See NORTH KOREA on Next Page



### Mayweather and Pacquiao

**T**he sandlot where I spent my childhood at 7 to 11 years of age in Aparri at the mouth of the Cagayan River was a *bona fide* fan club of the boxing world, where children clenched their fists and thrust an imaginary jab as quickly as one says "hello," the jab often landing before the syllabication of the greetings is finished.

A playmate whose physical genetics from a Caucasian father after World War II was bigger than mine teased us while we played *tinnudok* (rubber bands twirled at the end of a stick and hidden on hand cover under the sand for the opponents to lasso with their stick) under the guavas. Frequent badgering was his game, and once while I was losing, in frustration, I grabbed his arm and twisted it over my shoulders, executing a *jujitsu* move that carried his whole body on my back and dumped him on the ground like a sack of cement. One of his arms, unfortunately, went down first under his whole body and it cracked a bone, dislodging it at a joint. He was taken to the hospital and that was the end of my sandlot play.

But boxing was the town's entertainment in that little delta town that received the silt from the Cagayan Valley, during fiestas and other celebrations, so we were steeped in the art of boxing. Pancho Villa ushered the first golden age, followed by Flash Elorde just about the time I hit my sandlot for the second golden age. Elorde's name still graces a gym in Metro Manila.

Bare fistfight was not endemic to the Philippine archipelago, known to be swift with the *balisong* (switchblade) in Luzon and the *kris* (the deadliest dagger of the world) in Mindanao, later transferred to the betting in the cock *pintakasi*, and during the Spanish era, *Señor* encouraged weaponless fighting as a sport, with the *suntukan* (fistfight) evolving into boxing.

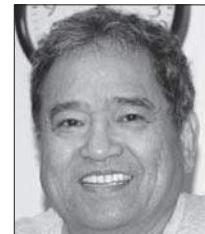
A fight with rattan poles as weapons was called *arnis*, equivalent to the sword play for sports and settling differences in duels among gents in medieval Europe, save that no Pinoy came close to being a gentleman to *El Señor*, even the eminent all-around talent Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo elevated the *arnis* as a national martial arts competitive sport and became the external exercise and internal discipline of the land, at par with *judo* and *jujitsu*, *taekwondo* and *karate*, *kung fu* and *taijiquan*, the last as the meditative art of centering and balancing the *Qi*.

The third Golden Era was ushered by Manny "The Pacman" Pacquiao, a stage singer and performer turned boxer and politician from Sarangani, Mindanao. The lasting influence of Pacman, as it was with the humble Elorde, is his rags-to-riches story that still inspires many. Unfortunately, it is limited to sports, and one that is horribly violent and possibly waning, or turning into pre-arranged comic-tragedy like the way wrestling has become on TV.

**By JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinopanda2031@aol.com.*



Manny comes up against the legendary boxer from Michigan, Floyd Mayweather Jr., another rags-to-riches mogul with a retinue that heralded a pugilist prodigy starting at 106 lbs as an amateur, slightly over half my diminutive (OK, rotund) size, but he worked himself into an undefeated record to the middleweight level. He remained undefeated in his pro career!

Floyd comes from a family of boxers. The father ran afoul with the law while trading drugs at night and paid for it in years of incarceration. Jr. related later that he came home from school finding used syringes and empty cartridges in his yard from drugs. He trained to box in New Jersey where his mother moved; an uncle boxer became training manager. Floyd Jr. never thought he would grow up to be anything but a boxer. The skill went with a gut-level career determination. Floyd never looked back.

Manny versus Floyd weighs in at 147 lbs in the welterweight division (Floyd went up to Light Middleweight at 154 lbs in one bout). The squaring off of the two has been on the works since 2009, a much-anticipated event, now more than a media splash. They differed on blood drawing schedule for drug. But six years later, they are scheduled to face-off on May 2, and it appears that the klieg lights will be on without any more hitches in Las Vegas. Floyd at 38 is two years older than Manny but stands two inches taller.

The art in boxing disappeared in recent years, though Floyd learned to parry jabs with a particular calculated stance. Bragadocio surrounds the sport, generating animosity between boxers. Add the Pinoy nationalistic fervor that accompanies fights, an entourage of a thousand cars driven to Vegas to accompany and root for Manny and decry Floyd this weekend. On the promo end, it looks like Manny is ahead as T-shirts with his image has flooded the Pinoy population.

Like duels, one wins, another loses; a draw simply delays the inevitable. Shaolin contest, after a bout, has the "winner" bow with right fist clenched on open left palm, saying *chengrang*, meaning, "thank you for letting me win!" Now, would it not be nice if either Floyd or Manny makes the gesture and utter those lines after the May 2 round in the ring?

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# Mañgge` Finu` Chamorro

**G**i 1972, hu tutuhon mañgge` gi finu` Chamorro regulatamente. Hu fagcha`e` ayu ha` guinaha-hu i haf` ma-fanagueghu gi primet yan segundu gradu. Hu pasensiaye gumuadog tattete dese "A,E,I,O,U", finu` bihu Elias, tiuhu Bilin, tiahu Marikita, nanahu yan mañainahu.

Kontodu kantan gima Yuus gi finu` Chamorro hu taitai para bai` li` e` taimanu i dos sainahu` nai mapega matuge` finu` Chamorro.

Este na pisu` nai hu tutuhon mañgge` maseha makat yan e` ekla finu` Chamorro-hu gi tutuhon. Dispues, umeyag-yu` ginien i mas man-mauleg.

Dañkulu na difirensia finu` Chamorro konbetsa yan matuge`. I tatatte mas fotmat na pinetsige. Ha embrarasa otganisasion dese asuntu yan presentasion, usun ñahlalañg na palabra yan esplikasion konseptu para u komprendiyon tinig`mu.

Hu atrebiyu` nu este na asuntu pot ansianu-yu` umasegura na lagse`yu` lokue` mañgge` gi hila-hu` mismu. Na`mamahlau i hila` otru` nai lagse`yu` ya gai ginatdon-yu gi mismu liñguahi-hu.

I mañgge` tai bali manadan leksion yan fina` akonsehu (lecture). I propiu chalan umeyag mañgge` i para un` fañgge`. Taya otru eskusu!

Obligasion-mu umasegura usun man-libianu na palabras para umakomprende haf` i estoria `sino opiniion-mu. `An ti komprendiyun puses kasse un` tug`e` mamaisa hau. Lastima!

I finu` natibu i uttimu sahyan ni sumede hit umabiba haf` kuttura yan tradision tautau-ta. `An maliñgu puses magpu` lokue` dignun yan espiritu natibu, petmanente.

Hu huñgog siha akomparasion gi tinige`hu yan otru man-titge` finu` Chamorro. Na`magof na mas libianu mataitai yan makomprene i asuntu ni hu presenta dibuenamiento. Para i numa`e`yu` sin-siyu na sineyu` un` dañkulu na agradesimiento.

Enfin, gaigeyu` esta gi idat `nai debi bai` tutuhon humatsa layaghu `sino mueba galaidehu kosake u fan halom i nuebu na kapitan yan marinero siha gi puettu. Un` dia bai` hu chogue este. Esta hu ayeg tahgueghu ni tumuñgu` estoriata siha yan sumen mauleg lokue` na fifinu` Chamorro. Banidosuyu` nu este na señora.

**Heñiun Natibu**

Unu na asuntu ni sumen makat gi natibu i para u aksepta difirensia na opiniion gi katkuet asuntu. Buente gai tinatte heñiun-ta gi difirensia na sentimentu. Ta trata i prohimu kumu enemigu.

Lau na`magof sa` adumididi` sige ta pula` este na heñiu. Hombre ha`ane guaha manana yan pueñge. Atan hafa i asuntu ya ayu `nai un` adiñgan. Cha` mu atataka i prohimu petsonamiento. Estague` i to`a na modun dibeate gi kinalamten sistemana demokrasia.

Hu guadog tatte hafa fumañagu este na heñiu. Gaige na inetden Espaniot gi man-guelota na u fan para man-finu` Chamorro. Ayu mina` i mañainata maprohibe libre na ekspressiu gi halom man-natibu. Puru ñañgon gi entalu niha. `An guaha opiniionmu puses mante niya hayu mismu.

**Kastigun usun liñguahue**

Tai malefaghу gi eskuela `nai mana` guaha mutta para kada biahe `nai magacha` hau fuminu` Chamorro. Haf` motibu na masede este ti hu komprende. Kastigu pot usun liñguahihu? Na ti este na sahyan gigigoghu `nai mañañaguyu`? Umeyagyu` fuminu` Eñglis lau ni en-nau tai premiu. Inkabukau mampos na areglu!

Mampos machoneg usun liñguahen otru na kontodu si biahu ha tutuhon fuminu` Eñglis ekklau. Ayugue` tutuhon inadisgustun mame i esta tiuhu tuñgu` hafa ilelegña. Dios mihi! Eyag liñguahim!

**SENATOR**

*From Page 10*

Back to North Korea. There's little prospect for change there unless China tries to force it.

Beijing is the North's economic lifeline to the outside, but China's leaders have historically been ambivalent about calling out the father-son madmen on its border. Better to have stability than confrontation, even if the people of North Korea starve.

If China were to decide there's too much risk in allowing Pyongyang to continue to expand its nuclear arsenal, then China might get serious about forcing negotiations. Beijing does have some desire for global credibility, and coddling Kim Jong Un doesn't provide it.

Scott Snyder, a North Korea expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, notes there is a small window for diplomacy this year surrounding Chinese President Xi Jinping's September visit to Washington.

But the prospects seem dim.

Now we return you to that minuet with Iran....

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**Finu` man-amku`**

Antau yan to`a` na finu` Chamorro ginen man-amko`ta ni sumen mañge` ma-ekuñgog. I dobladan palabra esta namanman usun niha. Piot ya matutuhon konbetsasion hilu` kustumbran tanu`. Todu palabra respetau yan hihot finu` kariñosu` nai man-masañgan deste kobransa, grasia yan chinatsaga. Hu sen agradese ayu na eskalera yan modun inadiñgan.

Maliñgu esta este na modun konbetsasion solu sen-to`a i tau-tau. Hombre guaha ha` sasañgaña "chatpagu" fuera de un` lapbla i prohimu direktamente ni machebañg-gue`. Finu` un` tiuhu `nai ha latigasuyu` pot atiloñghu, "Ihu, ma`lag todus asuntu ni un` tutuge` ginen koransonmu". Konsuelo ni mana` esgin un` banda lau komprendiyon!

**Gi halom didog chinatsaga**

Tat ti ume`ensinayahu man-aligau mantension familia. Mientras sige presiu hulu` gi attikulun nesessidat i suetdu hagas gatdun gi hagas sagaña pot maske dies años na tiempu.

## Treating the 'moral injuries' of returning troops

**W**hen the Greek playwright Sophocles came home from war, in 5th century B.C., trust and betrayal must have been on his mind. He wrote "Philoctetes," about a wounded Greek warrior abandoned by Odysseus on the way to Troy.

The stench of Philoctetes' wound and his wails of distress made him a liability. That is, until Philoctetes' sacred bow, a gift from the god Heracles, turned out to be the Greeks' last hope for defeating the Trojans. Odysseus returned to rescue Philoctetes (or at least his bow), but he dared not show his face to the man he had left behind. Hidden, he coached a young soldier, Neoptolemus, on how to build rapport with Philoctetes in order to exploit it to get the bow. The twist in the play is that real trust is cultivated instead; and with it, hope that heals.

The ancient Greeks understood Philoctetes' agony and salvation in the context of the Peloponnesian War. Modern Americans can apply it to the longest conflicts in American history: the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, in which 2.7 million troops have served. Many are bringing home the weight of resentment and betrayal, and often guilt and shame, even if it's masked by a stoic military demeanor. Some feel betrayed by commanders or unit members, like Philoctetes; some by civilians who've been "at the mall while we've been at war"; and some by politicians they think have failed to take full responsibility for the wars they started.

The term "moral injury" resonates with these troops. It's an old concept. The notion of a wound that is moral, or occasioned by "contempt" and "injustice," is the centerpiece of sermons of Bishop Joseph Butler in early 18th-century England. From the philosopher's perspective, the concept is a way of talking about anguish caused by wrongdoing (real and perceived)—others toward you, you toward others, others toward others, you toward yourself. Agent, victim and witness are all players in the moral conscience.

And transgression isn't the only issue at the heart of moral injury. So is falling short of the lofty ideals of military honor. That the military code—never abandon a buddy, bring all your troops home, don't put innocents at risk—is impossible to meet doesn't always register deep down. The result may be shame, and all too often suicidal shame.

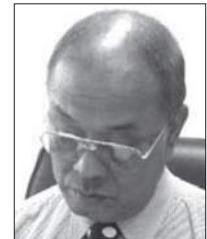
Moral injury is distinct from post-traumatic stress disorder, which is generally thought of narrowly as a fear-conditioned syndrome marked by hyper-vigilance and flashbacks. The prevailing treatment for PTSD is therapy to "decondition" the fear response. But guilt, shame, raging resentment and betrayal are different from fear. To overcome them requires relationships that rebuild a soldier's sense of trust in himself and others, no small order given the effects of war.

Take Sgt. Eduardo "Lalo" Panyagua. He joined the Marines as a way out of a tough life in an L.A. barrio. At high school he met

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Gi halom este na rimulinu, sessu mattu gi hinasoghu haf` mohon ya ha chage hit it Saina ni uttimu nina` siñata?

Kumeke ileghu kau un` babaye i prohimu ni pettamu `nai mattu man-dakot? Kau un` ayuda maseha dididi` gi uttimu sinsiyumu pot didog nesessidatia? Ha faisen hit i Saina para ta ayuda i na`mase`.

In` hassu un` estoria `nai mattu un` prohimu mamaisen cho`chu` ya ayu ginagauña fina` amotsan talo`ane? Inayuda ni dos asagua. Dispues de ha chogue che`cho`ña maliñgon halom gi lemlem tautau.

I dos umasagua masoda` dispues mit pot mit pesus gi bañkon niha. Ni unu siña umarastreha ginen manu ayu na salape`. Bali sensian yo`ase` yan geftau.

**By NANCY SHERMAN**

Los Angeles Times

*Nancy Sherman is the author of Afterwar: Healing the Moral Wounds of Our Soldiers. She is a professor of philosophy at Georgetown University. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times*



Donna Hernandez, a dark-haired, dark-eyed Goth girl with street smarts and a bookish sensibility. Fast forward a few years. She ends up at Georgetown University and he joined the Marines, deploying twice to Fallujah in Iraq, and later to Marjah, in Afghanistan. Before that last deployment, in 2009, they eloped. In her senior year, she became my student, and I met Lalo, home from Afghanistan, working at Quantico Marine Base and struggling with stateside life.

His desk job is nothing like the combat roles he excelled at. His physical wounds require treatment and his commander reads it as malingering. His flashbacks had him flinging his wife across the room and wielding a knife for her protection.

At Donna's insistence, he went to see the "wizard," Marine talk for a counselor, but it wasn't enough. He was treated, correctly, for PTSD, replaying his story over and over again, trying to desensitize himself from his adrenaline-fueled fear and rage. But what really wracked him was guilt and shame. He felt he had betrayed three of his "baby birds," Marines who didn't make it home:

"I was in charge of guys," he told me, "and my biggest fear out there was losing any one of them. They're all like little brothers who I trained."

One incident stood out. In a convoy near Marjah, Panyagua's unit had been emplacing ground sensors. Cpl. Justin Wilson needed a pit stop. Wilson jumped off his armored vehicle, found himself an empty hut for privacy, and got pulverized. Lalo literally picked up the pieces. That was bad enough, but what really ate at him was this: Whenever one of his guys had stepped off an MRAP, he reminded them to take precautions, to open their eyes. But he's not sure he repeated the mantra that day.

Lalo is lucky in Donna. Patiently, authentically, in a way reminiscent of the young soldier in "Philoctetes," she has bootstrapped trust and hope in her husband, answering his self-reproach with a corrected vision of who he was in the war, what he did, and who he can be now.

"Everyone falls in love with Lalo," she says, meaning not just that he charms but also that he is worthy of love. Hernandez reminds him of the truth he has trouble seeing: He was a good Marine; he surpassed expectations in every mission he was assigned. At her request, he was in full regalia at her graduation from Georgetown, an acknowledgment of his honors and his capacities. Her enduring support is rescuing a self-marooned warrior.

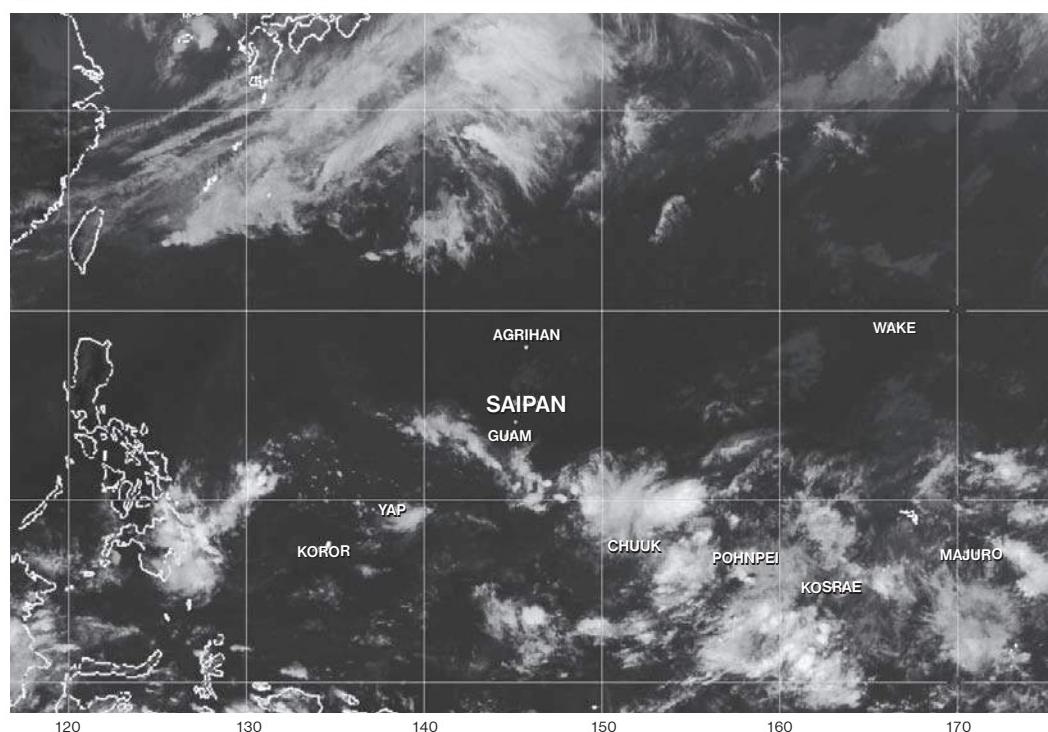
There is final link to the Philoctetes story. Like Neoptolemus, Donna has had to scheme to confiscate Lalo's weapons. First it was a knife—gone. He took up archery. "He can't really hurt anyone with a bow and arrow," Donna laughs, but even that is over now. Their relationship provides him with a different kind of protection, the kind that saved Philoctetes and that so many of our veterans need.

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°

## Yesterday's Satellite Image



## PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from a weak circulation west of Koror at 8N131E to another circulation near Chuuk at 8N152E then continues eastward to 6N168E and southeastward to 2N180E. In western Micronesia isolated clusters of showers and thunderstorms are occurring northwest of Koror near 10N130E just east of Yap near 9N140E and well southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 3N from 145E to 150E. Around the circulation near Chuuk areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found around Chuuk and Pohnpei in the area bounded by 11N150E to 8N164E to 5N162E to EQ165E to EQ157E back to 11N150E. Farther eastward along the trough scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Majuro within 150 miles of 4N171 and isolated thunderstorms are seen around Kwajalein and Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 12N168E to 5N180E. North of the monsoon trough trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of the Mariana Islands within 50 miles of a line from 15N140E to 10N147E to 11N150E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 81
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 80

## Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
6:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

## Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM

## Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:28 PM	3:10 AM
Friday	4:15 PM	3:48 AM
Saturday	5:03 PM	4:27 AM
Sunday	5:52 PM	5:07 AM
Monday	6:43 PM	5:49 AM

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA5068 8:00am 8:50am 3				UA5071 6:40am 7:30am 3			
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7				UA5071 7:15am 8:05am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
UA5039 2:15pm 3:55pm 6, 7 via Rota				UA5039 12:55pm 1:45pm 6, 7			
UA5078 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 5				UA5038 1:00pm 2:35pm 2, 4 via Rota			
UA5038 3:05pm 3:55pm 2, 4				UA5077 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 5			
UA5040 6:55pm 7:45pm 1, 5				UA5041 5:35pm 6:25pm 1, 5			
UA5078 8:35pm 9:25pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7				UA5077 7:15pm 8:05pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA5044 10:40pm 11:30pm 1, 5				UA5043 9:20pm 10:10pm 1, 5			
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA5039 2:15pm 2:50pm 6, 7				UA5038 1:00pm 1:35pm 2, 4			
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA5039 3:20pm 3:55pm 6, 7				UA5038 2:00pm 2:35pm 2, 4			
<b>SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)</b>				<b>PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL287 6:05am 1:05am+1 2, 6 via NRT				DL298 4:30am 2:55pm 3, 7 via NRT			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL287 6:05am 8:45am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6				DL298 10:25am 2:55pm Daily			
DL297 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily				DL288 8:55pm 1:25am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7			
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				OZ623 8:50am 2:20pm Daily			
OZ626 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				7C3402 9:30am 3:20pm 1, 2, 4, 7			
7C3403 4:35am 8:20am 1, 2, 5, 6, 7				7C3402 10:55am 4:25pm 3, 5, 6			
7C3403 5:25am 9:10am 3, 4				OZ625 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
OZ624 3:30pm 6:55pm Daily				OZ625 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:20pm 8:05pm 1, 2, 4, 7				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
7C3401 5:25pm 9:10pm 3, 5, 6							
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 7</							

# Business

## Obama, Abe declare progress, but no breakthrough, on trade

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama acknowledged Tuesday the challenge he faces winning congressional support for a major Asia-Pacific trade deal that has become a cornerstone of his second term agenda. “It’s never fun passing a trade bill in this town,” the president said as he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared their determination to seeing the deal through.

Both Obama and Abe face domestic pressures on trade that have not only created sticking points between Japan and the U.S., but have also complicated Obama’s ability to win support for a broader 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

With Japan and the U.S. as the largest economies in those negotiations, resolving their own differences could go far in paving the way for the more extensive trade deal.

“I know that the politics around trade can be hard in both our countries,” Obama said, as Abe stood by his side during a Rose Garden news conference.

While Abe’s visit to the White House was not expected to yield a trade breakthrough,



want to see more American cars in Japan as well.”

Abe said he is eager to see “the early conclusion” of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, adding that on outstanding issues over trade barriers “we welcome the fact that significant progress was made.”

Before completing the deal, however, Obama must win expanded negotiating authority from the U.S. Congress, a difficult task given opposition from liberals and labor unions who say they fear the loss of American jobs. As a result, Obama’s stiffest resistance has come from members of his own Democratic Party.

Abe faces his own trade politics at home. Japan has long-standing protections for politically powerful farm interests. Moreover, an aging population and changing tastes have lowered the consumption of rice, resulting in significant surpluses that Japan has protected with tariffs and other supports.

Still, Obama said: “I know that Prime Minister Abe, like me, is deeply committed to getting this done, and I’m confident we will.”

China’s economic and military footprint hung over the Abe visit. In the face of China’s rise, Obama has sought to display more U.S. economic and security might in the Asia-Pacific region.

He said the U.S. sees China as a booming potential market and partner for U.S. development efforts overseas, noting that hundreds of millions of Chinese have been pulled out of poverty in recent years. But he acknowledged “some real tensions” over China’s maritime claims.

“They feel that rather than resolve these issues through normal international dispute settlements, they are flexing their muscles,” he said. “We’ve said to China what we should say to any country in that circumstance: That’s the wrong way to go about it.”

President Barack Obama hosts a state arrival ceremony for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Tuesday, April 28, 2015, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

the lack of a final accord between the two nonetheless stood out given agreement in other areas, particularly on changes to U.S.-Japan defense guidelines—an area where both countries share more common ground. The new rules boost Japan’s military capability amid growing Chinese assertiveness in disputed

areas in the East and South China Sea claimed by Beijing.

Referring to the trade barriers on vehicles that have been

one of the main sticking points in the U.S.-Japan trade talks, Obama said: “There are many Japanese cars in America, I

## Tyson Foods hopes to rid US chicken of antibiotics by 2017

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Tyson Foods intends to stop using human antibiotics in its domestic chicken flocks by September 2017, the company said Tuesday, and will explore doing the same for its beef, pork and turkey operations.

The move comes as restaurants demand more natural, unaltered food and amid concerns that widespread antibiotic use can lead to drug-resistant germs. An animal welfare group said if antibiotics are to be taken away, other steps were needed to ensure birds remain healthy.

McDonald’s said in March it wants suppliers to stop using human antibiotics in poultry within two years and the Panera and Chipotle restaurant chains say chicken they currently serve is antibiotic-free.

Donnie Smith, Tyson’s president and CEO, said the 2017 target wasn’t intended to match any customer’s timetable.

“As we worked with our animal pharmaceutical partners and with researchers and with others ... it’s just the first point at which we felt like we would be in a position to totally eliminated the human-used antibiotics,” he said on a conference call.

Christine Daugherty, Tyson’s vice president of sustainable food production, said discussions would begin in the sum-

mer about additional antibiotic restrictions, though the company made no pledge.

“For other proteins, the animals in the cattle, hog and turkey supply chain, we want to get to reducing human-use antibiotics on the farm as well but we don’t have a time frame,” she said.

She said human-used antibiotics would still be used in poultry if it was the best course of treatment.

“We will not compromise the well-being of the ani-

mals,” she said.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals cautioned that if antibiotics are taken away, the industry must take other steps to keep birds healthy, such as giving chickens room to roam, improving sanitation and addressing poor genetics.

“If animal welfare is not addressed in conjunction with pulling back the drugs, this could actually be a very dangerous move for birds and ul-

timately for consumers,” said Suzanne McMillan, content director for the Farm Animal Welfare Campaign of the ASPCA.

Tyson said while it already has premium, antibiotic-free line of poultry, weaning all flocks from human-use antibiotics is not expected to increase costs to consumers. Smith said only a small percentage of birds are treated with antibiotics and are cleared of any residuals before being sent to a processing plant.

## US consumer confidence slides in April

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. consumer confidence fell this month to the lowest level in four months, knocked down by a slowdown in hiring.

The Conference Board said Wednesday that its consumer confidence index fell to 95.2 in April from 101.4 in March, the lowest reading since December’s 93.1.

Consumers’ assessment of current economic conditions fell for the third straight month, and their expectations for the future fell as well.

Lynn Franco, the Conference Board’s director of economic indicators, blamed “the recent lackluster performance of the labor market.” The American economy generated just 126,000 jobs last

month, breaking a 12-month streak of at least 200,000 new jobs a month; 31 states registered job losses in March.

Consumers’ view of the current job market deteriorated in April. They were also more likely to say that there would be fewer jobs and that their own incomes would be lower in six months. The share saying they planned to buy a car or a major appliance within six months fell. The decline in confidence hit all age groups.

Also weighing on consumers’ spirits: Gasoline prices, which tumbled to a nationwide average low of \$2.03 a gallon in late January, have bounced back up to \$2.55 a gallon, according to AAA. That may be dampening

the desire and ability of Americans to go shopping. Still, gasoline prices were more than a \$1 higher, or \$3.70, a year ago.

Economists believe that overall economic growth slowed to between 1 percent and 1.5 percent in the January-March quarter. They are forecasting a rebound to growth of around 3 percent for the rest of this year. The economy grew 2.4 percent in 2014.

Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity. Daniel Silver, an economist with J.P. Morgan, warned in a research report that “the recent weakening in confidence raises some questions about whether we will see real consumer spending accelerate as much as anticipated.”

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### AT&T fires president over racist text; \$100M lawsuit goes on

LOS ANGELES (AP)—AT&T Inc. on Tuesday confirmed that it has fired Aaron Slator, a president who became the subject of a \$100 million discrimination lawsuit for using his work phone to send racially offensive images. “There is no place for demeaning behavior within AT&T and we regret the action was not taken earlier,” the company said. The images in question were found on Slator’s phone by an assistant who was asked to transfer data to a new phone, according to the lawsuit filed Monday by Knoyme King, a 50-year-old black woman who worked for Slator. One of the images, apparently of an African child dancing with the caption “It’s Friday ...” followed by a term offensive to African Americans, had been sent in a text describing it as an “oldie but a goodie,” the lawsuit said.

#### Samsung’s profit hit by bigger iPhones,

#### sinks 39 percent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics Co. said its first quarter net profit plunged 39 percent as consumers switched to bigger iPhones, squeezing earnings from its mobile business to less than half from a year earlier. The company reported Wednesday that its January-March net profit was 4.63 trillion won (\$4.35 billion), compared with 7.49 trillion won a year earlier. That was lower than the forecast of 4.97 trillion won in a survey of analysts by financial data provider FactSet. The bigger-than-expected drop was due to a big profit plunge in Samsung’s mobile business. The maker of Galaxy smartphones said its mobile division generated 2.74 trillion won in quarterly profit compared with 6.43 trillion won a year earlier. Analysts estimate Samsung sold more smartphones than Apple during the quarter. But the Korean firm lost ground in the high-end market to Apple after the maker of the iPhone began offering models with bigger screens last fall.



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18,110.14  
+72.17  
0.40%

**S&P**  
2,114.76  
+5.84  
0.28%

**NASDAQ**  
5,055.42  
-4.82  
0.10%

In U.S. dollar terms

#### EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	<b>1.2516</b>	Hong Kong Dollar	<b>7.7504</b>	Philippine Peso	<b>44.251</b>
British Pound	<b>0.6518</b>	Indian Rupee	<b>63.235</b>	Singapore Dollar	<b>1.3207</b>
Canadian Dollar	<b>1.2036</b>	Indonesian Rupiah	<b>12967.5</b>	South Korean Won	<b>1068.55</b>
Chinese Yuan	<b>6.2051</b>	Japanese Yen	<b>118.845</b>	Swiss Franc	<b>0.957</b>
Euro	<b>0.912</b>	Malaysian Ringgit	<b>3.5455</b>	Taiwan Dollar	<b>30.481</b>
		New Zealand Dollar	<b>1.2987</b>	Thailand Baht	<b>32.6805</b>



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# World

## After historic arguments, court to rule on same-sex marriage

By MARK SHERMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Pivotal Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose vote could decide the same-sex marriage issue for the nation, did not tip his hand Tuesday in historic arguments at the Supreme Court. But Kennedy's record on the issue could give encouragement to gay and lesbian couples.

As advocates and protesters demonstrated outside, the author of the court's three prior gay rights rulings talked about the touchstones of dignity and concern for children in same-sex households that drove his favorable earlier opinions.

But he also worried about changing the definition of marriage from the union of a man and a woman, a meaning that he said has existed for "millennia-plus time."

"It's very difficult for the court to say 'We know better'" after barely a decade of experience with same-sex marriage in the United States, Kennedy told Mary Bonauto, a lawyer representing same-sex couples.

The 78-year-old justice's likely role as a key, perhaps decisive vote was reinforced during arguments that lasted 2 1/2 hours in a rapt courtroom and appeared to divide the court's liberal and conservative justices over whether the Constitution gives same-sex couples the right to marry. Those couples can do so now in 36 states and the District of Columbia, and the court is weighing whether gay and lesbian unions should be allowed in all 50 states.

"Same-sex couples say, of course, 'We understand the nobility and the sacredness of

marriage. We know we can't procreate, but we want the other attributes of it in order to show that we, too, have a dignity that can be fulfilled,'" Kennedy said in an exchange with lawyer John Bursch, who was defending the state marriage bans.

Later, Kennedy also seemed concerned about adopted children in same-sex households if only one partner is considered a parent. "Under your view, it would be very difficult for same-sex couples to adopt those children," Kennedy said.

Tuesday's arguments offered the first public indication of where the justices stand in

the dispute over whether states can continue defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman, or whether the Constitution gives gay and lesbian couples the right to marry. In

the court's last look at same-sex marriage in 2013, the justices struck down part of the federal anti-gay marriage law. Federal courts with few exceptions have relied on Kennedy's opinion in that case to invalidate gay marriage bans in state after state.

The court divided 5-4 in that case, with the liberals joining Kennedy in the majority. Their questions on Tuesday suggested they would vote to extend same-

sex marriage nationwide, while

conservative justices' questions

and comments were much more

skeptical.

Justices Stephen Breyer and

Sonia Sotomayor both said mar-

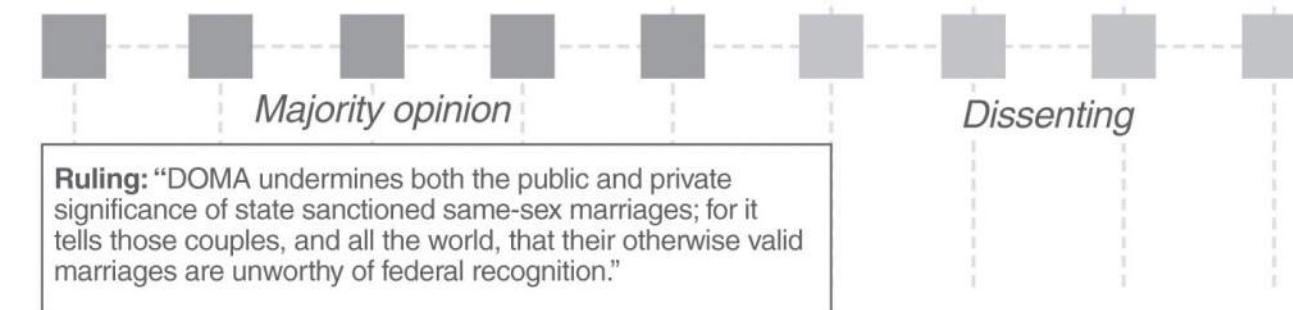
### Same-sex marriage in the Supreme Court

*The Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a case on same-sex marriage rights at the state level. In 2013, the court ruled in favor of marriage rights, striking down portions of the Defense of Marriage Act.*



#### United States v. Windsor Decided July 29, 2013

*Struck down the section of the Defense of Marriage Act denying federal recognition of same-sex marriage*



Source: United States Supreme Court

Graphic: Tyler Davis, Tribune News Service

## Survivors tell gruesome details of Colorado theater shooting

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** (AP)—Katie Medley, nine months pregnant and crouching between the seats of a movie theater filling with tear gas, gunfire and screams, looked at her husband Caleb's bloody face and told a friend, "He's dead, he's dead."

Kaylan Bailey was 13 that night, sitting with a group of family and friends in the midst of the 421 people watching a midnight "Batman" premiere. She thought she was witnessing a prank until she realized bullets were flying past her.

She reached over to Veronica Moser-Sullivan, the 6-year-old girl she had been babysitting earlier, and realized she wasn't breathing. "I was screaming Veronica's name," she remembered.

They were among the first of many prosecution witnesses in the death penalty trial of James Holmes, and their grip-

ping testimony Tuesday made clear the state's determination to make sure jurors know the carnage Holmes caused inside the suburban Denver theater on July 20, 2012.

Judge Carlos A. Samour Jr. warned jurors as the trial opened not to let sympathy and emotion influence their judgment. The defense team has conceded that Holmes was the killer, hoping to focus not on the crime itself or its lingering damage, but on the only question left for jurors to resolve: whether Holmes was legally insane at the time.

But on this first long day of testimony, the judge repeatedly turned away defense objections to particularly gruesome and tragic details. Defense attorneys did not question any of the 10 witnesses—nine people who were in the theater, and Aurora police Sgt. Michael Hawkins, who told of barreling to the scene at 100 mph and then car-

rying dying Veronica to an ambulance.

"I looked down at her and I realized that she was gone," Hawkins said, his strong, clear voice fading to a grieving whisper.

She was the youngest to die that night.

Defense attorney Katherine Spengler argued that grisly photos, a 911 recording of shrieks and screams, and the words "bloody victim" that a witness wrote on a diagram of the theater served only to inflame the jury. The judge dismissed her motions, reasoning that the evidence is relevant and fairly depicts a horrific crime.

Prosecutors say they will prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Holmes was sane, therefore guilty, and should be executed. Holmes has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity; his defense hopes the jury will have him indefinitely committed

to a mental institution.

Tuesday was Day One of testimony in a trial expected to last four months or more. If the prosecution keeps this up, the cumulative weight of the victims' suffering could make the defense job even more difficult.

Perhaps the most riveting testimony was also the shortest so far, coming from Caleb Medley, an aspiring comedian who survived the shotgun blast Holmes fired at his face but lost an eye and was left unable to walk and barely able to speak.

Prosecutors asked him only two questions: Was he married to Katie? Was he at the theater that night?

From a wheelchair, he answered the first with a breathy, grunted "Yeah."

To the second, he tapped out his answer on a poster board with the letters of the alphabet: Y, E, S.

## Police clash with Baltimore protesters for a second night

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—A line of police behind riot shields hurled tear gas canisters and fired pepper balls at as many as 200 protesters Tuesday night to enforce a citywide curfew, imposed after the worst outbreak of rioting in Baltimore since 1968.

Demonstrators threw bottles at police and picked up the canisters and hurled them back at officers. But the crowd rapidly dispersed and was down

to just a few dozen people within minutes.

The clash came after a day of high tension but relative peace in Baltimore, as thousands of police officers and National Guardsmen poured in to try to prevent another round of looting and arson like the one that rocked the city on Monday.

It was the first time since the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 that the National Guard was called out in Baltimore to quell unrest.

The racially charged violence on Monday was set off by the case of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man who died of a spinal-cord injury under mysterious circumstances while in police custody.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said 2,000 Guardsmen and 1,000 law officers would be in place overnight.

"This combined force will not tolerate violence or looting," he warned.

In a measure of how tense things were on Tuesday, Baltimore was under a 10 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew. All public schools were closed. And the Baltimore Orioles canceled Tuesday night's game at Camden Yards and—in what may be a first in baseball's 145-year history—announced that Wednesday's game will be closed to the public.

The streets were largely calm all day and into the evening, with only a few scattered

riage was a fundamental right and a state would need a truly compelling reason to deny it to a class of people. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said heterosexual couples would retain the same marriage benefits they currently have, whether or not same-sex couples also could marry.

Bursch argued repeatedly that states could prohibit same-sex unions because marriage always has been about biological bonds between parents and their children.

Justice Elena Kagan said some people have difficulty with that argument, finding it "hard to see how permitting same-sex marriage discourages people from being bonded with their biological children."

If the definition of marriage is changed, Bursch said, "then adults could think, rightly, that this relationship is more about adults and not about the kids."

The actual cases before the court involve same-sex couples in which both partners want recognition as adoptive parents. In one case, Detroit-area nurses April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse are seeking joint adoption of their four children, and Bursch was quick to say he was not talking about them.

arrests.

About 15 minutes after the 10 p.m. curfew took effect, police moved against protesters who remained in the street in the city's Penn North section, near where a CVS pharmacy was looted the day before.

Shortly before the curfew and in a different neighborhood, police arrested three to four juveniles in South Baltimore after people started attacking officers with rocks and bricks, authorities said. At least one officer was reported injured.

Monday's outbreak of looting, arson and rock- and bottle-throwing by mostly black rioters erupted just hours after Gray's funeral. It was the worst such violence in the U.S. since the unrest last year over the death of Michael Brown, the unarmed black 18-year-old shot by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri.

At the White House, President Barack Obama called the deaths of several black men around the country at the hands of police "a slow-rolling crisis." But he added that there was "no excuse" for the violence in Baltimore, and said the rioters should be treated as criminals.

"They aren't protesting. They aren't making a statement. They're stealing," Obama said.

Political leaders and residents called the violence a tragedy for the city and lamented the damage done by the rioters to their own neighborhoods.

# Asia

## Indonesia confirms it executed 8 for drug smuggling

**CILACAP, Indonesia** (AP)—Indonesia brushed aside last-minute appeals and executed eight people convicted of drug smuggling on Wednesday, although a Philippine woman was granted a stay of execution.

Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo confirmed at a news conference hours after the deaths had been widely reported that each of the eight had been executed simultaneously at 12:35 a.m. (1735 GMT) by a 13-member firing squad. Medical teams confirmed their deaths three minutes later, he said.

"The executions have been successfully implemented, perfectly," Prasetyo said. "All worked, no misses," he said of the deaths of two Australians, four Nigerians, a Brazilian and an Indonesian man.

Prasetyo early announced that Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso had been granted a stay of execution while the Philippines investigates her case.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced that Australia will withdraw its ambassador from Jakarta in response to the executions of two Australians, Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31.

"These executions are both cruel and unnecessary," Abbott told reporters.

He said it was cruel because Chan and Sukumaran had spent a decade in jail before being executed and "unnecessary because both of these young Australians were fully rehabilitated while in prison."

Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff said in a statement



An ambulance arrives from the prison island of Nusakambangan where the executions were carried out, in Cilacap, Central Java, Indonesia, Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

the execution of a second Brazilian citizen in Indonesia this year "marks a serious event in the relations between the two countries."

Brazil had asked for a stay of execution for Rodrigo Gularte, 42, on humanitarian grounds because he was schizophrenic.

Prasetyo dismissed concerns that Indonesia had done long-term damage to bilateral rela-

tions through the executions.

"It's just a momentary reaction," he said. "What we're doing is carrying out court decisions."

He said that the message was "do not try to smuggle drugs in Indonesia, because we will be harsh and firm against drug-related crimes."

Michael Chan, brother of Andrew Chan, who became a Christian pastor during his de-

cade in prison and married an Indonesian woman on Monday, reacted with anger.

"I have just lost a courageous brother to a flawed Indonesian legal system. I miss you already RIP my Little Brother," he tweeted.

In a statement, the Sukumaran and Chan families said: "In

the 10 years since they were arrested, they did all they could to make amends, helping many others. They asked for mercy, but there was none."

Mary Jane Veloso's mother, Celia, said that the stay of execution for her daughter was nothing short of a miracle.

Presidential spokesman Her-

## For Afghanistan's abandoned children, help is scarce

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—Starved and beaten by his stepmother, the little boy with big brown eyes was already withdrawn and unhappy by the time his father banished him from the family home and sent him to an orphanage in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

There, the beatings and the abuse continued, this time by older boys, and it took a while before a teacher at school noticed just how much in pain the 10-year-old was and slowly got him to tell her his story.

The boy's mother had become sick and died, he said, and when his father remarried, the new wife took against the boy and his sister, often beating them, and withholding food for days on end.

It would have been an all too common story in Afghanistan had not the teacher reached out to a parliamentarian, who got in touch with a government rights commission, which then contacted a non-government organization that in turn pro-

vided a lawyer—and after a complicated cascade of events the boy was eventually brought to a shelter run by Hagar International, the NGO.

After almost four decades of war, two generations of Afghans have no experience of life without a backdrop of brutality. The 10-year-old was one of the lucky few to escape what can appear to be a never-ending cycle of violence.

Human rights officials and those working with abandoned, orphaned or unwanted children say up to 6.5 million Afghan children live in danger of abuse. The country, with an estimated population of around 30 million, has had much of its services devastated by the conflict and has little capacity to care for them.

On a recent visit to the Hagar shelter for vulnerable minors in Kabul, The Associated Press gained access to a tiny fraction of those children. With the permission of the shelter managers—who are the children's

legal guardians—and with the consent of the 10-year-old himself, the AP talked to the boy about his life since his father sent him away. It is the AP's policy not to identify minors who have been subjected to abuse.

The shelter, in the western suburbs of the capital, is one of two in Kabul run by Hagar International, which for the past five years has aimed to provide a range of services for children who have suffered extreme abuse.

Many are not orphans in the traditional sense. They still have a parent living—but one who is not willing or financially capable of caring for the child.

At Hagar, many of the children experience education for the first time and acquire skills that could one day help them earn a salary. But most importantly, they learn that their lives have value and they are treated with dignity, said Sara Shinkfield, Hagar's country director in Afghanistan.

**PASLANG, Nepal** (AP)—There is almost nothing left of this village but enormous piles of broken red bricks and heaps of mud and dust.

One of those piles was once Bhoj Kumar Thapa's home, where his pregnant wife pushed their 5-year-old daughter to safety in a last, desperate act before it collapsed and killed her during Saturday's earthquake.

Thapa and others in Paslang were still waiting Tuesday for the government to deliver food, tents—any kind of aid—to this poor mountain village near the epicenter of the quake that killed more than 4,700 people, injured over 8,000 and left tens of thousands homeless.

"When I got home, there was nothing," said Thapa, an army soldier. "Everything was broken. My wife—she was dead."

He was put on leave from his army unit to mourn, one of the few Nepalese soldiers not deployed in the country's massive rescue and recovery operation. But instead of sadness, there is anger.

"Only the other villagers who have also lost their homes are helping me. But we get nothing from the government," Thapa said.

An official came, took some pictures and left—without delivering anything to the village of about 300 people northwest of the capital of Kathmandu, he said.

"I get angry, but what can I do? I am also working for the government," Thapa said. "I went to ask the police if they could at least send some men to help us salvage our things, but they said they have no one to send."

Paslang is only 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) up the mountain from the town of Gorkha, the district headquarters and staging area for rescue and aid operations. But the villagers, who have no idea when they might get help, are still sleeping together in the mud and sharing whatever scraps of food they can pull from beneath their ruined buildings. Three people in the hamlet have died.

minio Coloma thanked Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo for giving due consideration to the appeal of his Philippine counterpart, Benigno Aquino III. He said the reprieve provides an opportunity for her testimony to expose how a criminal syndicate duped her into being an unwitting accomplice and courier in drug trafficking.

There were cheers from the more than 250 Veloso supporters who held a candlelight vigil outside the Indonesian Embassy in Manila.

Veloso, 30, was arrested in 2010 at the airport in the central Indonesian city of Yogyakarta, where officials discovered about 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds) of heroin hidden in her luggage.

## Golf course debate reflects Vietnam army's capitalist streak

**HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam** (AP)—Vietnam's busiest airport, once a major gateway for thousands of U.S. troops headed for battle, is now the scene of a slow-burning controversy linked to the commercial clout of the country's powerful military.

To alleviate congestion at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhut International Airport, top officials in the ruling Communist Party have proposed building an airport costing a whopping \$15.8 billion about 40 kilometers (25 miles) away. But some city residents and aviation experts say it makes more sense for the airport to simply expand onto some adjacent land managed by the army. They wonder why the property is being used for a new golf course.

Using the adjacent land for golf is "irrational," said Le Trong Sanh, former head of the airport's flight management department. "We should take back the course."

The debate sheds light on a rarity in Vietnam: The appearance of conflict between the army's considerable financial interests and the public's interests.

The Vietnam People's Army—which on Thursday is celebrating its 40th anniversary of defeating the Americans—was for decades a rag-tag but tenacious military that also fended off France and China in the last century. Since the Vietnam War, it has added to its portfolio a dizzying array of enterprises and subsidiaries that span construction, airport services, shipbuilding, garment manufacturing and other sectors. Two of the best-known are cellphone operator Viettel and Military Bank.

# World

## Nigerian army rescues 300 women and girls, none from Chibok

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria** (AP)—Nigerian troops rescued nearly 300 girls and women during an offensive Tuesday against Boko Haram militants in the northeastern Sambisa Forest, the military said, but they did not include any of the schoolgirls kidnapped from Chibok a year ago.

The army announced the rescue on Twitter and said it was screening and interviewing the abducted girls and women.

Troops destroyed and cleared four militant camps and rescued 200 abducted girls and 93 women “but they are not the Chibok girls,” army spokesman Col. Sani Usman told The Associated Press.

Nearly 300 schoolgirls were kidnapped from the northeastern town of Chibok by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram in April 2014. The militants took the schoolgirls in trucks into the Sambisa Forest. Dozens escaped, but 219 remain missing.

The plight of the schoolgirls, who have become known as “the Chibok girls,” aroused international outrage and a campaign for their release under the hashtag (hash) BringBackOurGirls.

Their kidnapping brought Boko Haram to the attention of the world, with even U.S. first lady Michelle Obama becoming involved as she tweeted a photograph of herself holding the campaign sign.

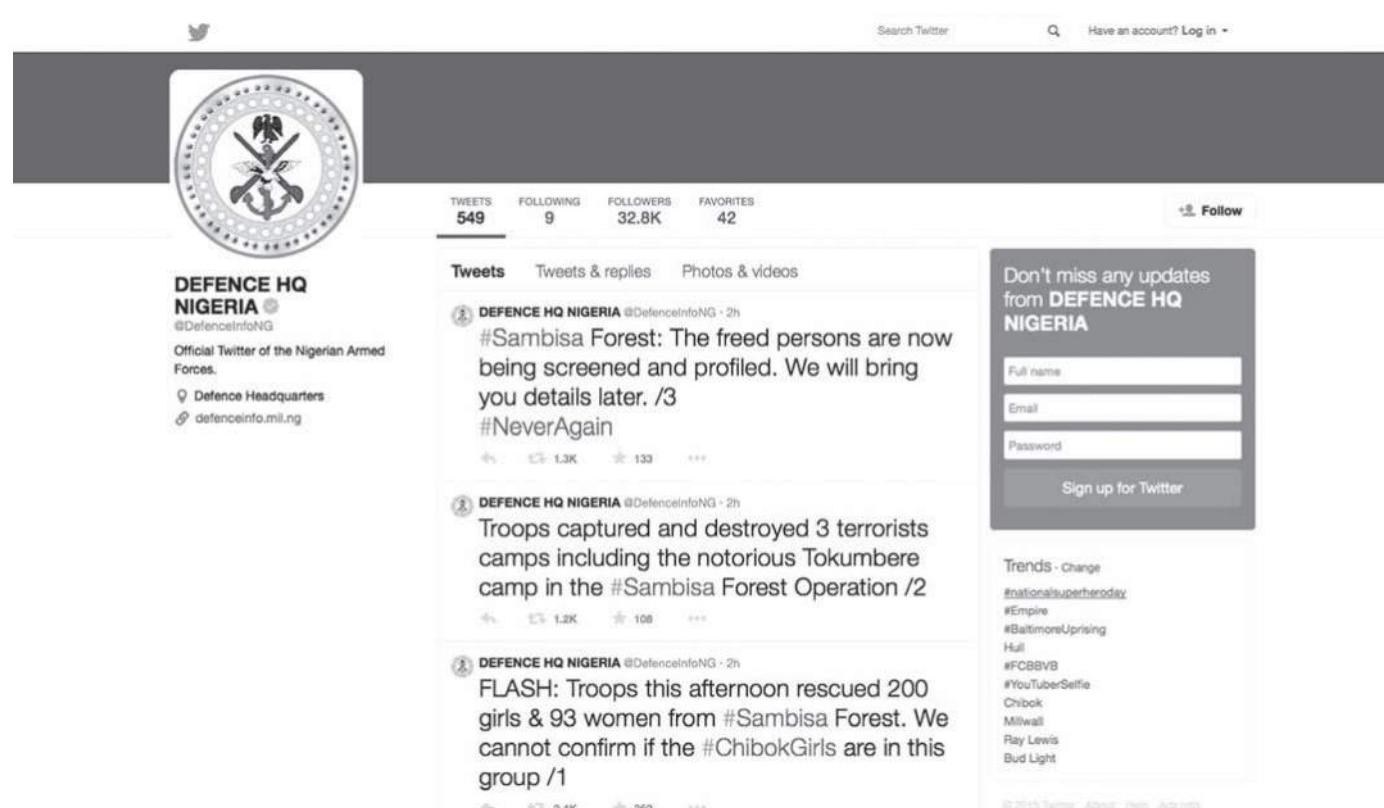
Boko Haram has kidnapped an unknown number of girls, women and young men to be used as sex slaves and fighters. Many have escaped or been released as Boko Haram has fled

bombers, sending them into crowded market places and elsewhere.

A month ago the Nigerian military began pounding the Sambisa Forest in air raids, an assault they said earlier they had been avoiding for fear of killing the Chibok schoolgirls, or inciting their captors to kill them.

The Nigerian troops managed to subdue them and rounded them all up, and some said they were forced to fight for Boko Haram, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Boko Haram also has used girls and women as suicide



This screen shot of the official Twitter feed of the Nigerian Armed Forces shows tweets announcing the rescue of 200 girls and 93 women from the Sambisa Forest in Nigeria and the destruction of three terrorist camps during the operation, Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

military believed that the Chibok girls might be held there.

In Chibok, community leader Pogu Bitrus said townspeople were desperately trying to verify the identity of the freed girls and women. He said the town had learned of the rescue through social media, not from the military.

“We are trying to verify if there are Chibok girls among them. We are working hard to verify.

... All we know is this number have been rescued,” he said. His comments reflected a distrust of the military, which has published many misstatements about the girls and once even claimed to have rescued some, though that proved to be untrue.

Unconfirmed reports over the past year had indicated the girls were broken up into smaller groups and had been forced to convert to Islam and that some were “married” off to their captors. Some witnesses said they saw the girls being ferried by canoe across Lake Chad and into neighboring Cameroon.

## Iran seizes cargo ship after firing warning shots

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Iranian forces fired warning shots across the bridge of a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo vessel as it was traversing the Strait of Hormuz, boarded the ship and directed it toward the Iranian mainland, a Pentagon official said Tuesday.

The incident with the MV Maersk Tigris, which prompted the U.S. Navy to dispatch a destroyer and a plane in response, comes at a critical time in Iran’s relations with its neighbors and the United States.

The U.S., other world powers and Iran are trying to hammer out a final deal over Iran’s nuclear program. Last week, the U.S. Navy dispatched an aircraft carrier and guided missile cruiser to the Arabian Sea amid worries that a convoy of Iranian cargo ships was headed to Yemen to deliver arms to the Shiite rebels fighting to take over Yemen.

And U.S. Navy officials said Tuesday that several Iranian



Revolutionary Guard Navy vessels had surrounded a U.S.-flagged cargo ship, the Maersk Kensington, last Friday as it was transiting the Strait of Hormuz. No shots were fired, the Iranian vessels broke off contact, and the cargo ship proceeded without further incident.

In Tuesday’s incident, the intercepted ship was traveling through the narrow Strait, which is technically Iranian and Omani territorial waters, but under international agree-

ment is open to foreign ships making an innocent passage, said Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman. It wasn’t clear whether the ship had strayed off course into coastal waters not protected by that agreement.

The master of the cargo ship MV Maersk Tigris had initially refused an Iranian order to move further into Iranian waters, but after the warning shots were fired the vessel complied, Warren said.

The cargo ship was directed to waters near Larak Island, he said. The island sits off the major Iranian port of Bandar Abbas and is one of several in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian state television reported that only 24 crew were onboard the vessel, and hailed from Britain, Bulgaria, Romania and Myanmar. It said the ship was seized based on a court order due to unspecified violations. Iranian officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

## Madeleine McCann’s parents win Portuguese libel case

**LISBON, Portugal** (AP)—

The parents of missing British girl Madeleine McCann have won 500,000 euros (\$549,000) in a libel action against a former Portuguese detective who published a book alleging they were involved in their daughter’s disappearance, according to a Lisbon court ruling published Tuesday.

The McCanns were seeking 1.2 million euros in damages from Goncalo Amaral, who was part of the police investigation into Madeleine’s disappearance from a vacation home in Portugal’s Algarve region in May 2007, days before her fourth birthday.

The claim included amounts for the parents as well as for Madeleine and her younger twin brother and sister.

The court decided to award

250,000 euros each to Kate and Gerry McCann, but didn’t grant the other claims.

It said Kate and Gerry argued that they were “totally destroyed” and “depressed” by Amaral’s allegations and felt “ashamed” that they might appear to have been to blame for their daughter’s disappearance, as well as being “seen as cowardly people who allegedly hid her body, pretending she had been snatched.”

They say their daughter was abducted while unattended in her family’s resort apartment in Praia da Luz on Portugal’s south coast as her parents and their friends dined nearby.

“More than financial compensation, what (Kate and Gerry McCann) want is public moral reparation,” the court said.

The McCanns welcomed

the ruling in a statement issued by the family spokesman, Clarence Mitchell.

“We are delighted with the judge’s verdict today. We want to emphasise the action was never about money. It was entirely focused on the effect of the libels on our other children and the damage that was done to the search for Madeleine,” they said.

“We would like to remind people that there is still an innocent little girl who is missing and that those responsible for her abduction remain at large,” they added.

Amaral argued in his defense that his claims stemmed from the police investigation and that Portuguese media had already reported the possibility that the parents might have played a role in Madeleine’s disappearance.

## Saudi king names counterterrorism czar as new crown prince

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia** (AP)—Saudi Arabia’s King Salman on Wednesday removed his half-brother from the post of crown prince and named his nephew, the country’s Interior Minister, in his place.

The post of crown prince secures Prince Mohammed bin Nayef as the most likely successor to King Salman. He is widely known internationally as Saudi Arabia’s counterterrorism czar and was previously deputy crown prince. He takes over the post of crown prince from Prince Muqrin.

The royal decree also announced that the king’s son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been appointed

deputy crown prince. He is believed to be around 30 years old and is also the country’s defense minister. As deputy crown prince, the prince is essentially seen as being second in line to the throne.

Also in the reshuffle, longtime Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal was replaced with Adel al-Jubeir, the kingdom’s current ambassador to the U.S.

The new appointments further thrust a new generation of Saudi princes into the line of succession.

Prince Muqrin, who was crown prince until Wednesday’s reshuffle, is the youngest son of the founder of Saudi Arabia, the late King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud.

At 69 years old, he once headed the kingdom’s intelligence agency, but was largely seen as a transitional figure in his post as crown prince.

Power has passed among Abdul-Aziz’s sons, from brother to brother, since his death in 1953. The crown prince and deputy crown prince are both from among a generation of grandsons of Abdul-Aziz.

The late King Abdullah had named Muqrin as crown prince in a move approved at the time by the Allegiance Council, a body made up of the living sons of Abdul-Aziz and some of the prominent grandsons who vote to pick the king and crown prince from among them.

# Environment

## FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

# New film looks at fast food diets vs local alternatives

First Friday Films presents a new film from the Future Food series this Friday, May 1, at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park. This episode is called "Fat or Skinny" and looks at the lives of people in India as they are faced with the choice between Western-style fast food and healthy indigenous food options.

Every day, as India awakes, 1.2 billion people need to be fed. By 2050 it could be 1.7 billion. Half a billion small-scale farmers supply most of India's food. Traditionally, Indians have eaten the healthy cuisine of India's 29 states, but as people move to the cities there's a growing demand for fast processed food, the so-called "junk food" accused of causing obesity and chronic health problems. Now

## BECQ Brigade to take on Sugar Dock

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Sugar Dock on Saturday, May 2, 2015, starting at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet with the BECQ representatives on Saturday at Sugar Dock at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

April's Environmental Awareness Month Islandwide Cleanup was successful, with 550 volunteers participating. Over 4,070 lbs of trash was removed from the beaches and roadsides and properly disposed of. BECQ would like to thank

## The Arctic's slow, giant carbon release

By SABRINA SHANKMAN  
INSIDECLIMATE NEWS

Permafrost—a vast, frozen subsurface layer of soil—covers nearly a quarter of the land in the Northern Hemisphere. It contains centuries' worth of carbon in the form of plants that have died since the last ice age but remained frozen rather than decomposing.

Now scientists are learning that the "perma" part of its name may no longer be accurate.

As the Arctic heats up at a rate twice that of the rest of the globe and as sea ice and glaciers turn to water, the permafrost is also thawing. A recent review article in the journal *Nature* found that as the unfrozen organic matter decays, vast stores of carbon in the permafrost could be released into the atmosphere. This will trigger an irreversible feedback system and nullify existing calculations of just how much carbon humans can burn and keep the globe within a relatively safe degree of warming.

Kevin Schaefer, a permafrost scientist with the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the Uni-

Pacific Region.

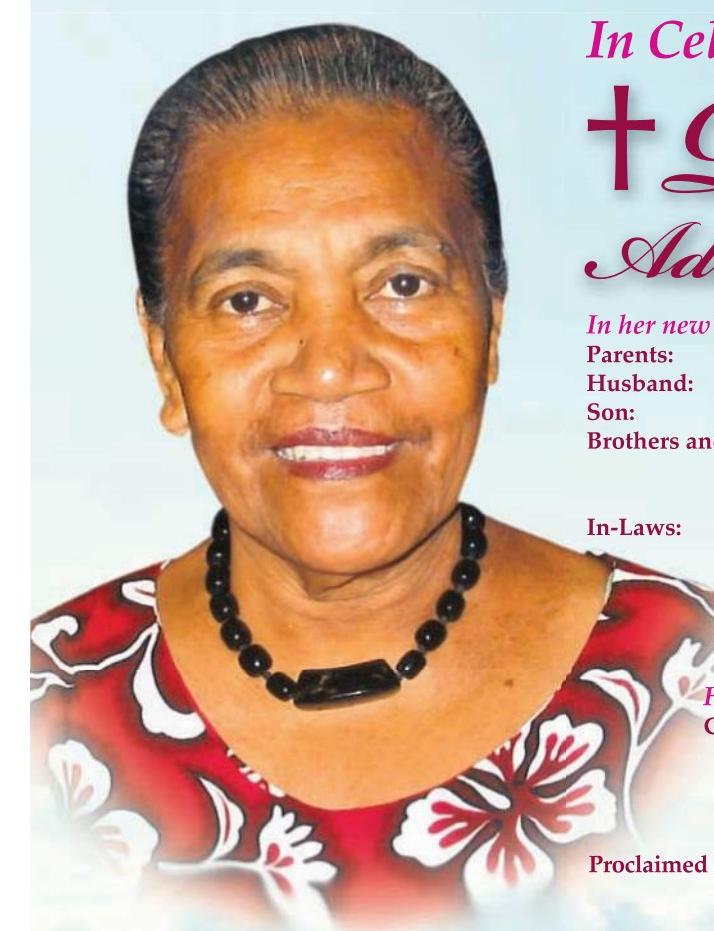
First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Humanities Council with support from other organizations and individuals. This particular film is sponsored by BECQ. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. This event will run approximately 60 minutes.

For more information about First Friday Films, email [fff-saipan@gmail.com](mailto:fff-saipan@gmail.com) or visit our website: [www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com). (BECQ)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Fat or Skinny" looks at the lives of people in India as they are faced with the choice between Western-style fast food and healthy indigenous food options.



### In Celebration of Her New Life

# + Paulina Adelbai Faustino

*In her new life, she now joins her*

**Parents:**

**Husband:**

**Son:**

**Brothers and Sisters:**

**In-Laws:**

**Proclaimed Children:**

†Pastor Aaron Adelbai and †Omisao Ngirusong

†Jose Tillei Faustino

†Paul Gravik Adelbai

†Carmen Ubud Maech, †Rubasch Santos Olikong,

†Christopher Tobal Adelbai, †Eusebio Adelbai, and †Matthias Adelbai

†Maech Ruluked, †Toshi Bechessrak,

†Akiko Ngiraikelau, †Moi and †Mitsuko F. Reeung,

†Dr. Alfonso Faustino, †Rose Faustino,

†Sano Blailes, †Anakleto Faustino, and †Vicente Roberto

*Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her*

**Children:** Sonia Adelbai and Jeffrey Tenorio Camacho (Guadalupe Paulina and Soledad Cecilia), Fernandez Kesol Faustino, and Rowena Leleng Maech

Wayne and Akiko Adelbai, Brian Adelbai, John Vianney Tutiy, Rosario-Torwal Children, Fritz-Sablan Children, Vivian Ngiraklang, Roland Merar, Ronnakella Erich, and Linda Yarobwemal

**Brothers and Sisters:** Rosania E. Adelbai, Ochob Rachel Bechessrak, Rubasch Adolf Ngiraikelau, and Rekisiwang Gabriel Adelbai

**In-Laws:**

Alfonsa Olikong, Reiko Adelbai, Theodosia Blailes, Nathania Faustino, Sally Faustino, and Martina Roberto.

She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, God children, and extended family and friends. Her extended family includes the members of her beloved Ave Maria Choir and the CNMI El Shaddai community.

#### Memorial services are as follows:

Daily mass of intention is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00 p.m. in San Antonio, Saipan. The daily rosary follows immediately after the mass at the same church.

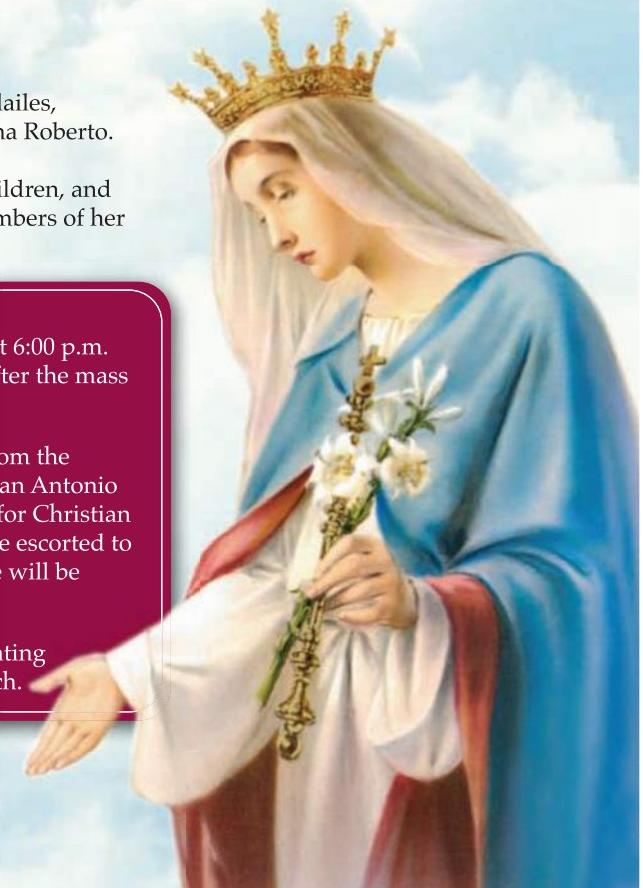
On Saturday, May 2, 2015, our dearly beloved will be escorted from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to San Antonio Church where the responso, holy rosary, viewing, and the Mass for Christian burial will be held. The Mass is set for 11:00 a.m. She will then be escorted to the Mount Carmel cemetery in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, where she will be laid to rest.

On Sunday, May 3, 2015, the Eucharistic celebration commemorating the 9-days of intentions will be at 9:00 a.m. at San Antonio Church.

We sincerely appreciate your presence and prayers.

Kom Kmal Mesulang

*From the Family*



# Life & Style

By JULIE MAKINEN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**ZENGCHONG, China—** More than a century before the Declaration of Independence was drafted, inhabitants of this southern Chinese village erected an elaborate drum tower.

Built without nails, its 11 hexagonal tiers stack up like a wedding cake 82 feet tall. Painted roosters, chickens, peacocks and ducks, in bright blues, greens and yellows, dance around the edges, frolicking in trees and bamboo groves. An octagonal two-story turret caps the structure like a fancy stopper on a giant perfume bottle.

In many ways, life in this remote hamlet, perched along the hairpin bend of a river in Guizhou province, seems to have changed little since the tower went up in 1672.

There are no fast-food restaurants, no mini-marts, not even a traffic light; the village feels like it has one foot in the 17th century. Men still drive donkey carts through the cobblestone streets while women arrive from the nearby green hills hauling bundles of kindling on their backs.

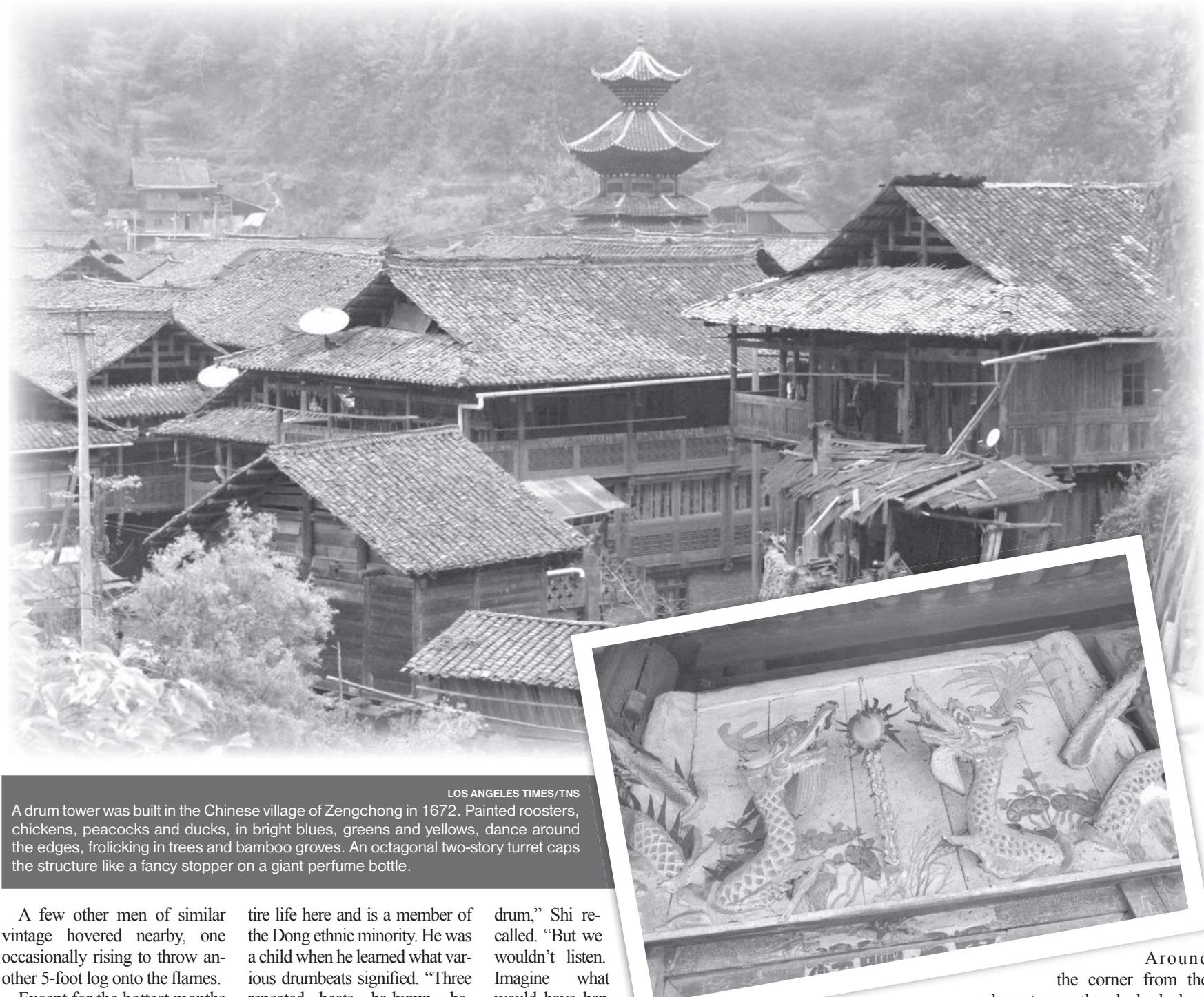
Stooped elderly women hobble through the narrow alleyways, peddling handmade brooms as sows oink from their sties and roaming roosters cluck. Butchers wield their cleavers at the roadsides, carving up chickens, pigs and dogs and cooking them over flames.

At the center of village life, the tower stands strong and straight, a venue for festive gatherings, a site for flirting, a pavilion for settling disputes. Hanging high in the rafters, the giant drum is an instrument of both welcome and warning.

In the center of the tower's open-sided ground floor, a massive hearth beckons citizens to warm their kettles over the coals and discuss important village business, town-hall style—or simply shoot the breeze.

On a recent overcast Monday morning, 53-year-old Shi Qinghui sat next to the fire pit dressed in a blue sport coat, white shirt and red and yellow slippers. Holding a cigarette in his left hand and a sickle in his right, he delicately shaved a piece of bamboo into long green reeds. He planned to weave them into a trap to catch river shrimp.

# China's oldest drum tower is Zengchong village's beating heart



LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

A drum tower was built in the Chinese village of Zengchong in 1672. Painted roosters, chickens, peacocks and ducks, in bright blues, greens and yellows, dance around the edges, frolicking in trees and bamboo groves. An octagonal two-story turret caps the structure like a fancy stopper on a giant perfume bottle.

A few other men of similar vintage hovered nearby, one occasionally rising to throw another 5-foot log onto the flames.

Except for the hottest months of the year, the fire is lighted each morning and kept burning until 10 or 11 each night, Shi said. Each of the 300 families in Zengchong is responsible for keeping the embers going at least one day a year.

"There's no chart to keep track of who's on duty when," he said. "People just remember important stuff like that."

Like almost everyone in Zengchong, Shi has lived his en-

tire life here and is a member of the Dong ethnic minority. He was a child when he learned what various drumbeats signified. "Three repeated beats—ba-bump, ba-bump, ba-bump—that's when we gather to sing," he said. "Six beats—ta-ta-ta-ta-ta—that means an enemy is coming."

Shi is old enough to remember Mao Zedong's 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when communist authorities and rabid young Red Guards launched a terrifying campaign to smash the "four olds": old customs, old habits, old ideas and old culture.

"They tried to get us to burn the

drum," Shi recalled. "But we wouldn't listen. Imagine what would have happened if we had followed those orders. This tower would be gone."

Thanks to the villagers' disobedience, Zengchong's signature structure now holds the title of China's oldest drum tower—343 years and counting. These days, local Communist Party officials see it as a calling card to put Zengchong on the tourist map.

Another Dong village in the region, Sanbao, claims to have the world's tallest drum tower. Local authorities have gussied it up for tourists. A sign out front even boasts of its inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records, though curiously, there's no mention of the drum tower on the official Guinness website. Visitors pay a \$1.60 entrance fee, and once inside, signposts guide them toward sights such as the "Souvenir Commodity Street."

In Zengchong, a construction crew is hard at work paving the bumpy dirt slope that links the village to a main road that connects to the town of Tingdong, 29 miles away. A new brown sign along the roadway spells out "Zengchong" in English letters, the better to guide foreigners.

How such developments may change Zengchong remains to be seen. Small signs of modernity are already evident. Nowadays, satellite dishes sprout from the roofs of weather-beaten huts, delivering programs such as "The Voice of China" to flat-screen TVs inside. Toddlers drive battery-powered toy cars through the narrow streets.

But the sightseer trade has yet to arrive with any gusto. There are no souvenir shops in Zengchong, no hawkers pushing postcards or T-shirts or factory-made "ethnic clothes."

Around the corner from the drum tower, the clack-clack of a loom echoed from behind the wooden door of Meng Guangzhi's house.

Inside, a charcoal brazier and one fluorescent bulb lit the dim workshop of the 46-year-old. Sitting barefoot at her rustic contraption, she passed a brass shuttle back and forth rapidly through the hanging threads, turning white cotton thread into a tight bolt of fabric with a small diamond pattern.

The fabric will be dyed with indigo and sewn into artfully trimmed women's jackets like the one Meng was wearing. Sensing the opportunity to acquire an authentic handicraft, a foreign visitor asked Meng whether she might part with some of the cloth.

"Sell it?" Meng replied, somewhat startled. "No, I can't do that. We need it here to make the clothes."

## Lifetime planning behind-the-scenes 'Full House' TV film

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Lifetime says it's joining in the "Full House" revival with a behind-the-scenes movie of the long-running family sitcom.

With the working title, "The Unauthorized Full House Story," the film promises to unveil the pressures on cast members

to balance the idyllic family life depicted on the show with the more complicated reality of their own real lives.

The creative team behind the project also produced Lifetime's "The Unauthorized Saved by the Bell Story." No cast or air date was announced for the film,

which is in development.

The news comes on the heels of Netflix's announced plans for 13 episodes of "Fuller House," a current-day reboot of the sitcom.

The original "Full House" aired on ABC from 1987 to 1995, with stars including John Stamos and Bob Saget.

# Joni Mitchell's website says she's alert, recovery expected

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Conflicting information about Joni Mitchell's health was released Tuesday, with a longtime friend stating in a court filing that the singer was unconscious and unable to care for herself while a statement from the Grammy winner's website stated she is alert and expected to make a full recovery.

Mitchell has been hospitalized since March 31 for undisclosed reasons. Her longtime friend Leslie Morris filed a petition to become Mitchell's guardian on Tuesday, stating that the singer-songwriter was unable to care for herself.

Within hours, Mitchell's official website stated that "She

comprehends, she's alert and she has her full senses. A full recovery is expected."

Morris' court filing was accompanied by a doctor's declaration stating that Mitchell would be unable to attend a court hearing for four to six months, but it included no additional details on her condition or prognosis. Dr. Paul Vespa checked a box signed on Saturday indicating that Mitchell was unable to participate in her medical care.

"At this time (Mitchell) remains unconscious and unable to make any responses, and is therefore unable to provide for any of her personal needs," states

Morris' filing, which was signed by her on Sunday and by her attorney on Monday.

Morris sought a court order because Mitchell does not have any family who can serve as her conservator and assist with her care and medical decisions. Her filing does not seek any control over Mitchell's finances.

Mitchell's website states Morris' filing seeks to get authority to make decisions for the singer once she leaves the hospital and is isn't under the 24 hour care of a doctor. A court hearing on the filing is sched-



uled for July 8.

Phone messages for Morris and her attorney, Alan Watenmaker, were not immediately returned.

Mitchell has received eight Grammy Awards, including a lifetime achievement award in 2002. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

She started her career as a street musician in her native Canada before moving to Southern California, where she became part of the flourishing folk scene in the late 1960s. Her second album, "Clouds," was a breakthrough with such songs as "Both Sides Now" and "Chelsea Morning," winning Mitchell the Grammy for best folk performance.

Her 1970 album, "Ladies of

the Canyon," featured the hit single "Big Yellow Taxi" and the era-defining "Woodstock." The following year, she released "Blue," which ranks 30th on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time."

Her musical style integrates folk and jazz elements, and she counts jazz giants Charles Mingus and Pat Metheny among her past collaborators.

## No caper: Bruce Wayne dethroned for armor-wearing Batman

By JESSE J. HOLLAND  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Move over, Bruce Wayne: There's going to be a new Batman fighting crime in Gotham City for DC Comics, and instead of a cape, he'll wear a manga-style suit of armor.

The creators of Batman are dethroning Wayne and bringing in a new Dark Knight as DC Comics begins to gear up for the annual Free Comic Book Day giveaways.

Author Scott Snyder and artist Greg Capullo won't say who will be under the armored cowl in Batman #41—the cape is also retired along with Bruce Wayne—but say this is one of those stories that "changes all the pieces on the table."

"The character we're putting under the cowl never expected it, never saw it coming and never set out to be Batman," Snyder said. "It comes out of left field, and he realizes that he's the only one that can make it make sense."

Wayne ends his run as Batman following a climactic battle with his archenemy the Joker in the appropriately named storyline

"Endgame," but it doesn't mean he's gone for good, said Snyder (he has relinquished his role as Batman at least twice before).

"He might not be under the cowl when the story starts but his presence will be a big part of the story and shape it," Snyder said.

Batman is one of the most enduring comic book superheroes, star of a long-running comic book, television series and movies—with the "Superman v Batman: Dawn of Justice" movie scheduled for next year.

Any kind of change to the character's mythos can be risky. But Snyder and Capullo—who designed the new armor—say their intention is to inject new interest into the Dark Knight comic books by putting a new person into the role.

"It gives us a chance to see Batman from this incredibly different angle," said Snyder, who has worked on the comic book with Capullo for four years.

The change in Batman is one of many going on in comic books recently, with Marvel re-casting a version of Spider-Man as a multi-racial teenager and Thor as a woman, and DC

Comics reimaging icons like Superman and Wonder Woman during a company-wide reboot. This all comes as comic book superheroes are the focus of Hollywood blockbuster movies like "Avengers: Age of Ultron," opening this week, or TV's "Gotham," which tells the story of a young Bruce Wayne.

The new Batman wears a manga-inspired suit of armor, Capullo said, in addition to another uniform underneath that's used when armor may be too bulky.

Comic book companies are pulling out all the stops for "Free Comic Book Day" on Saturday, when comic book stores offer some free comic books to readers in hopes of bringing in new fans to the industry. Marvel Comics, the home of the Avengers, the X-Men and Spider-Man, will be offering free comics in both English and Spanish on that day.

The change in Batman hopefully will bring in new people to the book, Snyder said. "This gives us a new lease on the book, and it gives hopefully fans a sense of how fun Batman can be," Snyder said.

## Michelle Obama dons Tadashi Shoji gown at Japan state dinner

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—First lady Michelle Obama paid tribute to the nation of honor at Tuesday's White House dinner for Japan by wearing a gown by Japanese-born designer Tadashi Shoji.

Sleeveless, with an empire waist and floor-grazing chiffon pleats, the rich purple gown was at once regal and airy. The first lady's hair was pinned back, revealing delicate applique details on the dress bodice.

Michelle Obama wore a long-sleeved floral frock from the Los Angeles-based designer earlier in the day for a visit to a Virginia elementary school with Akie Abe, wife of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Obama also chose a Shoji dress earlier this month for an appearance on "The Tonight Show."

Shoji's designs have also been worn by such Hollywood stars as Kate Beckinsale and Katy Perry. Both Mo'Nique and Octavia Spencer wore gowns by the designer when they won their Academy Awards.



AP  
President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama smile at each other as they wait to greet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie Abe at the North Portico of the White House as they arrive for a state dinner, Tuesday, April 28, 2015, in Washington.

## Life of contentment doesn't seem normal by comparison

**D**EAR ABBY: I'm 45, employed and earning plenty of money. I'm in a great relationship, my kids and grandkids are healthy and happy, and my parents are alive and well. I enjoy the small things in life, fishing, reading, the beach, mini vacations, bowling, etc. I raise funds to feed the homeless.

So what's my problem, you ask? Abby, I'm not really sure what my purpose is in life or if the way my life is, is normal. I feel content—even happy at times—but I'm troubled because it seems a lot of people do the exact opposite of what I am doing and they all have a purpose. Some of them are going to school, raising kids, having relationship problems, money issues, etc. They seem to be doing so much, and I feel like I'm doing so little.

What is normal for my age? Should I be doing more? Most times I feel happy, but on a day like today I feel unfulfilled. Do I need to do more?

WHAT IS NORMAL?

**DEAR WHAT:** Doing so little? Count your blessings! You hold a job, have a family I presume you regularly interact with, have a great relationship, hobbies you enjoy and contribute to those who have less than you. I would say you are productive and successful.

However, if YOU think you need to do more, then it's pos-

sible you do. Take some time, decide what it is and reallocate your time if you feel you need something more to fulfill you. But please stop measuring yourself by anyone else's yardstick because people who do that are rarely happy.

**DEAR ABBY:** I fell in love with "Alex" during my last year of college. We had known each other for 18 months. One month before our wedding, he broke up with me. He says I was verbally abusive.

I admit I had anger issues. I had to plan most of the wedding alone because we were four hours apart. When we argued, he would say one thing and then something different later. He would also tell his mom stuff about me and our relationship that I considered private. After the breakup, I found out he had lied to me about his religion.

I had a hard time with the breakup. I tried hard to reconcile or find solutions, but he rejected all of them. Now he's blaming me and throwing things in my face.

I am heartbroken and depressed. I don't know if I should be mad at him for the lies and the heartache he has caused me, or mad at myself for messing up. I have lost my confidence and self-esteem. What do I do?

STILL IN LOVE

**DEAR STILL IN LOVE:** Take off the rose-colored glasses

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



for a moment and consider what the reality of a marriage to Alex would have been like. You would have had a mama's boy for a husband, one you couldn't count on to tell the truth and who blamed you for anything that went wrong.

Don't you realize you dodged a bullet? If things had turned out differently, you'd be writing me as an unhappy wife, probably with children to support.

Let it go, get help for your anger issues and don't waste more time brooding. There are times it is better that we don't get the things we wish for, and this may be one of them.

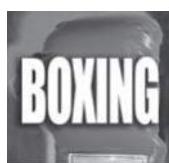
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)





# Pacquiao: Relax, I'm going to beat Mayweather

By TIM DAHLBERG  
AP BOXING WRITER



**LAS VEGAS**  
(AP)—Manny Pacquiao worried about the punching power of

Miguel Cotto. He knew Juan Manuel Marquez was a slick counter puncher, and wondered how he'd fare against a fighter the caliber of Oscar De La Hoya.

He's got no such worries about Floyd Mayweather Jr. on the eve of boxing's richest fight ever.

"I cannot say he is that difficult an opponent," Pacquiao said Tuesday. "My confidence right now is different than the other fights I had. I feel excited, this is it. I have to prove something."

Just hours after arriving in this boxing capital in a motorhome from Los Angeles, Pacquiao oozed confidence at a rally attended by about 1,000 people at the Mandalay Bay hotel. The mostly Filipino crowd watched Pacquiao's latest music video and was entertained by dancers and singers before the fighter himself made a brief appearance.

"I know I'm going to win the fight in the ring," Pacquiao told the crowd. "So relax."

Oddsmakers aren't so convinced, with Pacquiao remaining about a 2-1 underdog for a fight expected to earn him more than \$100 million. But Pacquiao didn't even have to break a sweat to win over the crowd that came to the hastily arranged pep rally in a convention area at the hotel.

"You're excited," Pacquiao said to the cheering crowd. "I'm very excited."

Mayweather was greeted by a much bigger crowd at the MGM Grand hotel, where Saturday's night welterweight title fight will play out. The Southern University marching band entertained and a mariachi band played outside before Mayweather arrived 20 minutes early.

For many, it was their only chance to see the two fighters without reaching deep in their pockets. Tickets for the fight itself were being offered online starting at \$3,800 and going over \$100,000 near ringside, while even the \$10 tickets for Friday's weigh-in were being offered for \$100 or more.

"Five years ago this was a \$50 million fight for me and \$20 million for him," said Mayweather, who is expected to make \$180 million or more to \$120 million for Pacquiao's camp.

With the real work already done, both fighters were going over game plans for a bout that was five years in the making. Pacquiao said he had two or three different strategies for the fight, depending on whether



**AP**  
Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, poses for fans at a rally in Las Vegas, Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

tells him Mayweather will win the fight, but his heart is with Pacquiao. He said the Filipino has an advantage with Roach in the corner, and will have a strategy to counter Mayweather's defensive moves.

"I believe this fight is going to be more exciting today than five years ago because both guys are not as agile on their feet," De La Hoya said. "Mayweather has lost a step or two with his legs and so has Pacquiao. Pacquiao will have a chance to connect a few punches on Mayweather and vice versa."

What he doesn't want to see, De La Hoya said, is Mayweather fighting just to win the fight. That strategy has helped Mayweather win all 47 of his fights, but fans are often unenthused about his performances because he thinks safety first.

In the most anticipated fight in recent times, that is not enough to stand the test of history, De La Hoya said.

"It's sometimes unfortunate that his mentality is I'm undefeated and I'm going to think I'm the greatest because nobody has beaten me," he said. "It just doesn't work that way. You have to dare to be great and when you are to be great you're going to face the toughest challenges. People are going to see that and people are going to respect that."

Mayweather wants to try to win with his defense or comes out attacking.

"If he wants to fight me, good for me," Pacquiao said. "If he's running and moving around the ring we're prepared for that, too."

Mayweather said that Pacquiao will be trying the same game plan that 47 others have failed to implement.

"Everybody's game plan is to come forward and throw lots of punches," Mayweather said. "It hasn't worked in 19 years and 47 fights."

It didn't work for De La Hoya, who lost to both men while helping make them the pay-per-view stars they are today. Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, was in De La

Hoya's corner in 2007 when De La Hoya won most of the early rounds before fading and dropping a decision to Mayweather.

It's a fight Roach believes De La Hoya could have won had he kept jabbing. More importantly, Roach said it was a fight he learned a lot about how to take on Mayweather.

"I really did learn from the Oscar fight. It was a good lesson to me," Roach said. "Floyd is tricky but not very complicated. But if you get behind him and start following him around the ring he will set a trap. I have trained Manny not to let that happen. When he sets a trap, Manny will walk away."

De La Hoya said his head

## Spurs edge Clippers in pivotal Game 5 on late call



### LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Tim Duncan scored 12 of his 21 points in the second half, and DeAndre Jordan was called for basket interference with 4.3 seconds left as the San Antonio Spurs moved to the brink of the second round with a 111-107 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 5 on Tuesday night.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points for the defending NBA champion Spurs, who took a 3-2 series lead with their second straight victory at Staples Center.

San Antonio's lead dwindled to one point in the final minute after the Clippers made a desperate 7-1 run, but Blake Griffin missed a leaping leaner with five seconds left. Jordan tipped it in, but touched the ball inside the cylinder, a ruling upheld on video review.

Game 6 is Thursday in San Antonio.

San Antonio survived another nail-biting game in this spectacular series with a tenacious fourth-quarter effort. The champs took a seven-point lead

and hung on after the Clippers cut the lead to one point on Matt Barnes' free throws with 30.8 seconds left.

Danny Green missed a jumper to give one last chance to the Clippers with 6.9 seconds left. After Jordan's disallowed tip, which was greeted with resigned acceptance by the crowd, Green hit one free throw with 4.1 seconds left.

He missed the second, but Leonard grabbed the rebound to seal the champions' latest escape.

Griffin had 30 points and 14 rebounds, but missed two free throws with 39 seconds to play. Los Angeles missed 16 free throws overall while getting pushed to the brink of elimination.

This entertaining series grinded to a crawl in a lengthy third quarter featuring 35 combined free throws, but it picked up again in a thrilling fourth.

Jordan had 21 points and 14 rebounds while the Spurs intentionally fouled him eight times in the middle quarters, resuming their hack-happy assault on the Clippers' poor-shooting center in the middle

quarters.

San Antonio made a 10-4 surge in the final minutes aided by a technical foul on Chris Paul, who had 19 points and 10 assists.

Boris Diaw capped the surge with a desperate fling at the basket to beat the shot clock with 2:52 to play, celebrating the improbable basket with a Gallic shrug.

Griffin blamed his last-minute turnover for the Clippers' tight loss in Game 2, and he missed two free throws in the final minute of Game 4.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers hoped his team would respond better to its second victory than its first in a series filled with serious momentum shifts. Los Angeles won the opener comfortably, but then lost two straight in an overtime thriller and a blowout.

Los Angeles responded with a gritty Game 4 in San Antonio, evening the series that was widely expected to be the best in the NBA's opening playoff round. The teams combined for 111 regular-season victories, but were stuck in a first-round matchup thanks to the Western Confer-

ence seeding system.

The series' fever pitch extended right into Game 5 in front of a success-hungry crowd waving red towels. Griffin paced the Clippers to an early 14-point lead, but San Antonio erased it and jumped ahead in a five-minute stretch of the first half.

Griffin was locked in from the opening tip, finishing with 21 points and eight rebounds in the first half. Los Angeles' defense also performed splendidly, forcing 10 Spurs turnovers, but San Antonio kept it close with superior bench play.

Manu Ginobili scored 14 points, Patty Mills added 13 and Diaw had 10 off the bench.

The Spurs also intentionally fouled Jordan three times late in the first half, resuming the divisive strategy that even

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich claims he uses reluctantly. Jordan, a dismal free-throw shooter, missed four of six before Rivers pulled him out.

The third quarter largely was a grim march to the line for both teams, starting with five intentional fouls committed against Jordan before Rivers

pulled him again. The Spurs shot 18 free throws of their own in the third, but the teams were tied headed to the fourth.

### Rockets 103, Mavericks 94

In Houston, James Harden scored 28 points, Terrence Jones had 10 of his 15 in the fourth quarter, and Houston beat Dallas for its first playoff series victory since 2009.

Houston won the Western Conference series 4-1 to advance to face the winner of the Clippers-Spurs series in the second round.

The Rockets bounced back from a lackluster performance in a 121-109 loss in Game 4 to head to the West semifinals for the first time since Yao Ming starred for Houston.

Dwight Howard had 18 points and 19 rebounds to help the Rockets dominate inside and Josh Smith scored 20 points. The Mavericks couldn't get going from long-range, going just 5 of 26 on 3-pointers.

Monta Ellis led Dallas with 25 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 22.

# Uggla's 3-run homer helps Nationals complete biggest rally



ATLANTA  
(AP)—Dan Uggla drove in five runs,

three on a homer in the ninth inning, to help the Washington Nationals rally from the franchise's biggest deficit to beat the Atlanta Braves 13-12 on Tuesday night and snap a seven-game losing streak.

The Nationals twice trailed by eight runs but chipped away at the lead as Jose Lobaton hit a three-run homer in a four-run fifth, Denard Span hit a solo homer in the sixth and Uggla had a two-run triple and Reed Johnson a pinch-hit RBI single in the seventh.

Washington's previous biggest comeback was on June 17, 2006, when it trailed the New York Yankees by seven runs.

Uggla, released last year by the Braves and still owed over \$18 million at the time, was booed in every at-bat, but he quieted the crowd with his first homer for Washington, a blast into the seats in left field off closer Jason Grilli (0-1).

A.J. Pierzynski went 4 for 4 with four RBIs and Freddie Freeman went 4 for 6 for the Braves.

## Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 5

In Phoenix, Diamondbacks pitcher Archie Bradley was hit in the face by a line drive but walked off the field and gave a thumbs up to the crowd, apparently avoiding serious injury.

Mark Trumbo went 4 for 4 with a two-run homer and a two-run triple to lead the Diamondbacks, who ended a four-game skid after a frightening scene early on.

Bradley was struck on the right side of his face by a liner off the bat of Rockies slugger Carlos Gonzalez in the second inning. The 22-year-old rookie lay virtually motionless on the mound for several minutes as trainers attended to him and anguished teammates squatted nearby.

Eventually he was rolled over and helped to his feet.

## Marlins 4, Mets 3

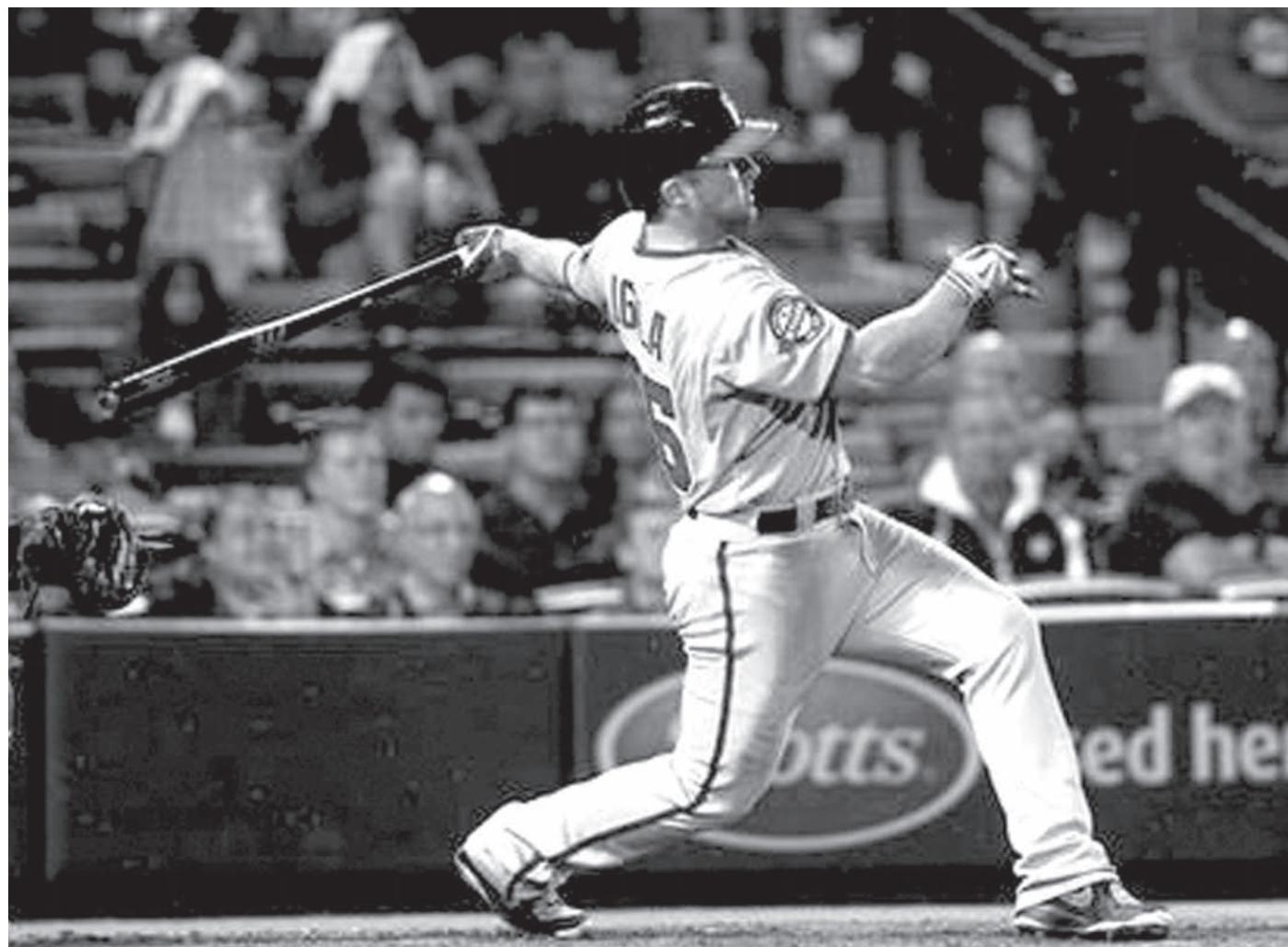
In Miami, Michael Morse hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning that sent the Miami Marlins to victory.

It was the Marlins' first win against the Mets this season in six tries. Miami has won six of seven overall.

Steve Cishek, who blew a save in Monday's 3-1 loss to New York by allowing a three-run homer to Daniel Murphy in the ninth, walked leadoff hitter Curtis Granderson before earning his second save of the year in four opportunities.

Bryan Morris (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win.

Juan Lagares hit a three-run double and Murphy had three hits for the Mets (15-6), who lost for only the third



run homer in the fourth.

Pirates starter Jeff Locke (2-1) took the loss after giving up six runs, five earned, and eight hits in 3 2-3 innings.

## Reds 4, Brewers 2

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto gave up three hits over eight innings during his latest dominant performance against the Milwaukee Brewers, and Brandon Phillips had a two-run homer.

Joey Votto and Marlon Byrd added solo homers off Kyle Lohse (1-4) as the Reds clinched the series. Half of their 10 wins this season have come against Milwaukee, the worst team in the majors.

The Brewers fell to 4-17, the worst start by a National League team in 18 years, according to STATS. The 1997 Cubs had an identical record. The 2010 Orioles were the last team in the majors to open a season 4-17.

Cueto (2-2) gave up homers to Aramis Ramirez and Ryan Braun as he got his sixth straight win over the Brewers. He's 9-3 career against Milwaukee, including 8-0 in 11 career starts at Great American Ball Park.

## Blue Jays 11, Red Sox 8

In Boston, Jose Bautista had an RBI in Toronto's five-run third inning, another in a three-run fourth and then added a homer to help the Blue Jays snap a four-game losing streak.

Josh Donaldson had three hits, including a homer, and Kevin Pillar also had three of Toronto's 17 hits. Marco Estrada (1-0) pitched three innings of hitless relief for the win. Brett Cecil pitched the ninth for his first save.

The Red Sox took a 4-0 lead against Drew Hutchison in the second. But Clay Buchholz (1-3) gave the lead right back, allowing five in the top of the third. Buchholz got just eight outs while allowing five runs—four earned—on six hits and a walk while striking out four.

## Astros 14, Padres 3

In San Diego, George Springer homered and drove in five runs, Evan Gattis added a two-run shot and the streaking Houston Astros routed the San Diego Padres.

Chris Carter connected for a solo drive, and the Astros hit three home runs at spacious Petco Park for the second consecutive night. The AL West leaders, who have won five straight and nine of 10, set season highs for runs and hits (16).

Houston (13-7) is 9-2 on the road, equaling the best 11-game start away from home in team history.

Springer hit a two-run homer in the seventh and added a two-run single in the eighth as he tied his career high for RBIs.

Roberto Hernandez (1-2) allowed solo homers to Wil Myers and Justin Upton, giving up three runs and six hits in six innings.

picked up his first career win despite allowing Moss' home run.

The Royals had a season-high 18 hits.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona met with his team for a pep talk following Monday's defeat, but the Indians lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

## Giants 2, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Madison Bumgarner pitched eight sharp innings in his fifth career matchup against Clayton Kershaw and batterymate Buster Posey homered, leading the San Francisco Giants.

Bumgarner (2-1) gave up a run and five hits, struck out nine and walked one while throwing 110 pitches. Last year's World Series and NLCS MVP is 3-1 lifetime against Kershaw, who was his mound opponent six nights earlier in San Francisco when neither got a decision in the Giants' 3-2 win.

Brett Gardner had an RBI groundout against Jake Odorizzi (2-2) in the Yankees' second win over Tampa Bay in this series and 10th in 12 games overall. Chris Martin yielded a two-out single in the ninth before finishing for his first career save.

## Royals 11, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Kendry Morales'

three-run homer capped a six-run seventh inning for the Kansas City Royals.

Kansas City's big inning

came after Cleveland had taken a 5-3 lead on Brandon Moss'

three-run homer in the sixth.

Alcides Escobar's two-run

double off Scott Atchison (0-1)

tied the game. Escobar scored

the go-ahead run from second

on Mike Moustakas'

infield hit and Morales later hit his third

homer of the season to dead

center off Bryan Shaw.

Brandon Finnegan (1-0)

.500 for the first time since June 30, 2012. Oakland bounced back against the defending AL West champions after being swept at home over the weekend by Houston.

Gray allowed two runs and six hits in his 105-pitch day. He lowered his ERA to 1.98 before Evan Scribner struck out the side in order to finish the 2-hour, 6-minute game.

## Twins 3, Tigers 2

In Minneapolis, Mike Pelfrey turned in his second consecutive strong start, Kurt Suzuki had two hits and the go-ahead single in the seventh inning.

Pelfrey (2-0) begrudgingly started the season in the bullpen after spending most of 2014 on the disabled list. He struck out seven and allowed one earned run on three hits over seven innings.

The big right-hander has won his last two starts while allowing only one earned run in 14 innings.

Santiago Casilla pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save in seven chances.

Kershaw (1-2) allowed two runs and seven hits over seven innings before he was lifted for a pinch-hitter.

Eduardo Escobar clapped his hands and pumped his fists as he stood on second base after his seventh-inning double scored Eduardo Nunez to tie the game.

Suzuki followed with a single up the middle off Anibal Sanchez (1-3) to give Minnesota the lead.

## Cardinals 11, Phillies 5

In St. Louis, Matt Carpenter tripled and doubled, and the St. Louis Cardinals had season highs in runs and hits to help Michael Wacha remain unbeaten.

Matt Holliday and Matt Adams each added three hits for the Cardinals, who finished with 15 hits. Jason Heyward reached base four times and Jon Jay

drove in two runs.

drove in two runs.

Wacha (4-0) drove in two runs and pitched 5 2-3 innings to win for the fourth time in four starts.

Severino Gonzalez (0-1) yielded seven runs and 10 hits in 2 2/3 innings in his major league debut.

## Mariners 2, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, J.A. Happ doubled his season strikeout total with nine in 6 2-3 innings and Rickie Weeks homered for Seattle.

Happ (2-1) allowed only one run and walked one. In 20 2-3 innings over his first three starts, the left-hander had nine strikeouts, three in seven innings of a loss to the Rangers.

Fernando Rodney worked a perfect ninth with two strikeouts for his sixth save in seven chances, and second in as many nights in Texas.

Nelson Cruz had three hits for Seattle, including a triple and double in the same game for the second time in his career. The other was at Boston in June 2009 while playing for the Rangers.

## Cubs 6, Pirates 2

In Chicago, Dexter Fowler had three hits and two RBIs, Travis Wood tossed seven strong innings and the Chicago Cubs won their fourth straight.

Kris Bryant, Starlin Castro, Junior Lake and Addison Russell each had an RBI as the Cubs scored all their runs with two outs.

Wood (2-1) extended his solid start to the season by allowing two runs and five hits. He lowered his ERA to 3.04.

Starling Marte accounted for Pittsburgh's offense with a two-

# Youngster Wang almost gave up

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

 Thirty-seven youngsters were part of the over 520 runners that took part in last Saturday's 2015 Saipan Festival of Runs, which started and ended at the American Memorial Park near Micro Beach.

Among them is 17-year-old Agape Christian School student En Feng Wang, who ran his first marathon and completed the 42.2-kilometer race in 4:15:07 to finish 14th overall and the top age grouper in the men's division.

Wang, a 10th grader at ACS, regularly practices for long distance races and could have won a gold in last year's All Schools Cross Country Championship



but ran one more lap.

"This is my first marathon but I regularly practice long distance running at least three to four times a week and I prepared for eight months for this," said Wang through interpreter

Rev. Kok Pang, ACS' president and senior administrator.

Wang, though he had some difficulty running after the 4am start since it was still dark, said that the final 10 kilometers of the race was the real challenge

## JP World caging eyes June opening

The 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League is hoping to open its competition this June at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Only the first 10 teams to register and complete the league requirements will be allowed to participate in the second edition of the annual caging. League coordinator Marlon Sison said so far six companies have expressed their interest in competing in the tournament that is exclusive for the Mobil fleet card and wholesale customers. Inaugural season finalist Micronesian Brokers, Inc., which lost to Shirley's Coffee Shop in the finals, 83-91, leads the

list and maybe joined by fellow returnees Commonwealth Utilities Corp, Docomo Pacific, Public School System, Saipan Ice and Water, and Joeten. Top Development, Inc. was the ninth team to join last season's tournament.

All squads will get free uniforms from the league sponsor and each squad is allowed to have a maximum of 12 players only. Players should be employees of the company they are representing and must get employment certification from their human resource department.

Entrance fee is only \$630 and must be submitted on or before May 8, which is also the deadline for submission

of rosters. The league will be implementing a first-come, first-serve rule in accepting entries and designating uniform colors for each squad. Games will be played three times a week or every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

"We are bringing back the league this year to show appreciation to our valued customers," Sison said in the invitation letter sent out to interested teams. "This also aims to promote camaraderie and discipline among the players, coaches, team managers, and basketball fans."

For more information, contact Sison at 989-5419 or 288-4940 or send email to marlon.jpworld@gmail.com. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

## MP

From Page 28

dropped to a 7-3-0 slate.

Shirley's ended Matansa's reign in the girls U15 division after blanking Kanoa, 3-0, in the third and last game this season. Mia Carreon, Katrina Costales, and Diana Maniacop posted one goal apiece for Shirley's, which finished the competition with an 8-2-0 record and 26 points, just two more than Matansa's total.

In the other girls U15 match

last weekend, Paire capped the season with an impressive 6-0 win over MP United. Renita Fleming had a hat-trick for Paire, which finished third in the field with its 5-0-5 record, ahead of Tan Holdings (3-2-5), MP United (2-0-8), and Kanoa (1-1-8). Guinevere Borja added two more goals, while Paire was handed an own goal early in the game.

In the boys U18 division, the winner has yet to be decided with only one game played last

weekend and three more are left in the three round-robin contest.

Matansa FC dominated Paire, 7-0, in the lone division match last Saturday at Hopwood. Matansa remained at the No. 3 spot behind Tan Holdings (7-1-0) and MP United (5-1-1) and ahead of Paire (0-0-7).

Joshua De Leon and Ryu Tanawaza tallied two goals each for Paire, which drew one goal apiece from Kenneth Mafnas, Evan Belcher, and Chad Shankweiler.

longer than us," the rookie mentor added.

After sweeping the elimination round, Garapan, which had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, let its guards down in Game 1, while WSR leaned on its good shooting to extend the championship duel. In Game 2, Garapan regrouped and used its height advantage to finish off WSR.

"We talked to the boys after losing Game 1 and told them to do what they were doing during our practice sessions—play team defense and be aggressive on offense," Ball said.

Garapan's victory in the boys division foiled WSR's bid for a sweep this season. The Kingfishers earlier clinched the girls tiara against Oleai with coaches Jerry Diaz, Melissa Dickinson, and Jude Loste guiding the squad. The three also coached the boys runner-up team composed of Jae Hee Kim, Merrick Toves, Matthew Dalugdog, Sebastien Manabat, Brandon Saipipi, Christopher Ayuyu, Anthony Lajara, John Caruana, Jason Matalog, Roger Sumpay, Darrel Soriano, Derrik Reyes Jr., and G.J. Mukawa.

According to Acosta, they will also sell food and drinks at the general admission section and raffle off some gift certificates from Fiesta during the event.

Acosta added that they hosted other sports events before, but the Pacquiao-Mayweather clash has so far been their biggest crowd-drawer. They attracted a lot of customers even though another hotel (World Resort) is also hosting a PPV show.

"We decided to sign up for PPV even if World Resort is already showing it because we

## GARAPAN

From Page 28

"We held a tryout and more than 20 joined. We selected 12 and then trained for about two weeks, four times a day for nearly two hours. We thought them the basics and helped them improve their skills during our training sessions," Mendez said.

"Going into the tournament we knew we had a chance, but we never anticipated to go undefeated in the elimination round because the other teams are also good and have trained

for him and he almost gave up.

"That was the hardest part. I really endured every pace and just kept on pushing myself. I keep on saying to myself that 'almost there,'" added Wang.

Despite of his experience in his first marathon, Wang said that he is looking forward for next year.

"I will start training again for next year. I'm looking forward for next year and as long as I'm studying here on Saipan," said

the native of Shandong province in China.

Sixteen-year-old Chen Xi Zhao, another ACS student, ran the Half Marathon, coming in fifth overall with a time of 1:45:07.

Both Wang and Zhao said they also play basketball and badminton aside from running.

Pang said that ACS' mission and vision is to improve the overall aspect of their students.

"We don't only focus on studies but also with the physical aspect that's why we participate in sports events. We also have music and our students are among the top in mathematics," added Pang, who opened ACS in 2007 with only seven students.

## Fiesta slips past Saipan Ice

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort played only with six men and that nearly cost them a win in the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015 last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Fiesta banked on Marlon De Dios and Lorio Pagaraao's game-long brilliance in squeezing out an 87-86 decision in the second game of a double-header that saw Public School System coasting to an 89-60 victory against IT&E in the opener.

The Fiesta-Saipan Ice match was a game of scoring spurts with neither team leading by more than 5 points, according to game officials.

De Dios scattered 35 points, 12 in the fourth quarter that helped Fiesta erase a 64-59 Saipan Ice lead after three quarters and secure their team's narrow win. He also grabbed a

game-high 17 rebounds and had three steals.

Pagaraao added 26 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 steals, while Arjay Nonato tallied 13 markers. Elmer Esdrelon only scored 6 but collected 14 rebounds and issued a season-high 12 assists.

Patrick Rotap paced Saipan Ice with 31 points, John Santy chipped in 22 markers and had 15 rebounds, and Treat Kaipat scored 21. Ben Olopai had a double-double with 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Earlier, PSS pulled away early in the first quarter and did not slow down after that to cruise to the 29-point win.

Preston Basa led PSS' balanced scoring with 16 points, Ezra Carro and Maverick Itibus contributed 14 markers apiece, while Marlon Cabrera ended up with 10 points.

Jerry Diaz had a near triple-double with 8 points, 9 rebounds, and 7 assists, while

Jacoby Winkfield collared 10 boards and had 8 markers.

Nate Mateo paced IT&E's losing cause with 28 points and 7 rebounds, while Errol Peredo chipped in 23 markers and 6 caroms.

The Top 6 teams, led by undefeated PIC, after the single eliminations move on to the double-round playoffs. The schedule was not yet available at press time.

### First Game

**PSS 89** – Basa 16, Carro 14, Itibus 14, Cabrera 10, Diaz 8, Winkfield 8, Villacrusis 6, Villagomez 6, Loste 4, Coldeen 3.

**IT&E 60** – Mateo 28, Peredo 23, Aglipay 5, Bernal 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-7, 40-17, 70-37, 89-60.

### Second Game

**Fiesta 87** – De Dios 35, Pagaraao 26, Nonato 13, Esdrelon 6, Dimafelix 4, Arreza 3.

**Saipan Ice 86** – Rotap 31, Santy 22, Kaipat 21, Olopai 10, Fernandez 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-17, 41-37, 59-64, 87-86.

"Docomo is the main organizer and they were the ones that are selling the tickets and the VIP tickets were the first ones to go sold out," Babauta said in a phone interview by the *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta added that Marpac-Budweiser, Pacific Trading Co., and Dial Rent-To-Own are the three sponsors that helped Docomo organize the viewing.

Red Box will have one big screen where the fight will be shown, while the Lilac Room will have three large flat screen TV sets.

"And the Royal Taga Hall will have the biggest screen, while four to six flat screen TV sets, provided by Dial Rent-To-Own, will be mounted around the ballroom for people at the back," said Babauta.

"We're all set for the fight. It's going to be an exciting fight and many fans have been anticipating for this to happen."

Asked who he is rooting for, Babauta quoted Boxing Hall of Famer Oscar De La Hoya, who said that: "My heart says Pacquiao, but my mind says Mayweather."

# 2015 Saipan Festival of Runs

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



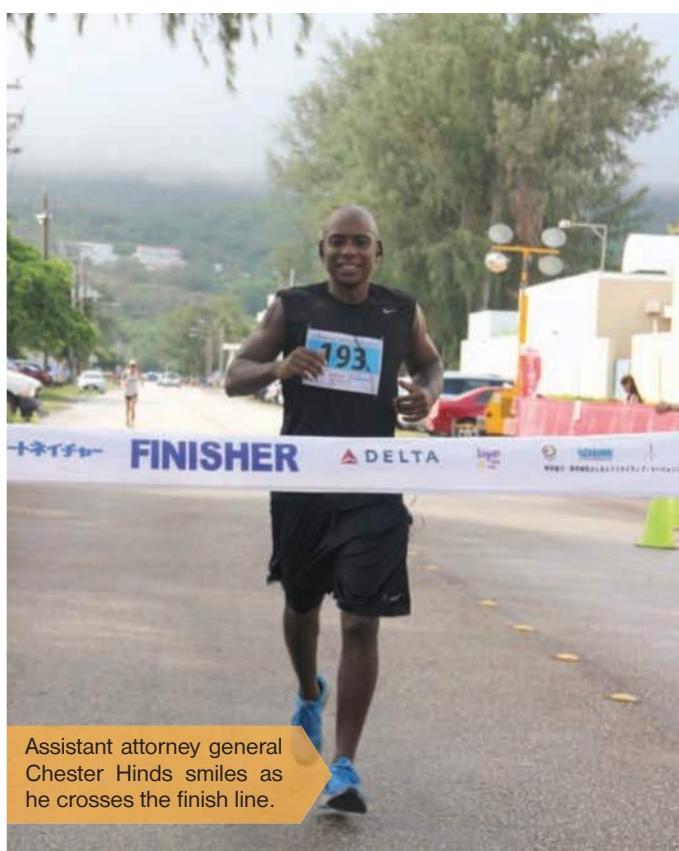
Jennifer Cui picks up her pace as she nears the finish line.



Tomohiro Mizukoshi of Japan competes in the 50-kilometer Kanpei course of last Saturday's 2015 Saipan Festival of Runs. The 40-year-old placed third in the overall men's race.



From left, Keiko Imai, Dai Washio, and Tyuyoshi Ikejiri take a break in a water station in Puerto Rico.



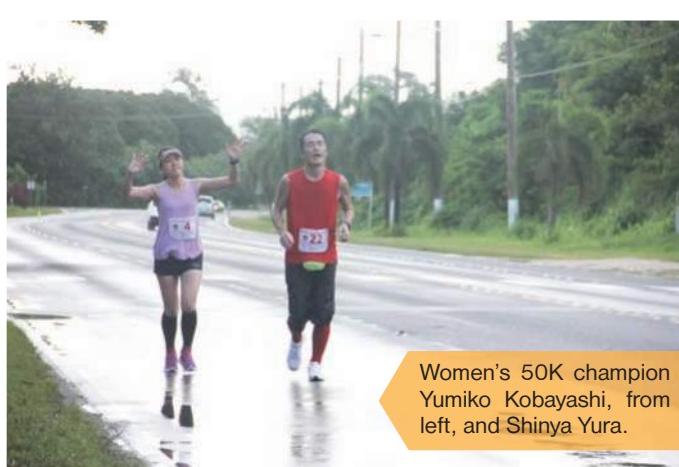
Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds smiles as he crosses the finish line.



Taiyo Nagashima grabs a sponge given to him by one of the volunteers to cool down.



Saipan's barefoot runner Chang Whan Jang heads toward the last 10 kilometers of the full marathon course.



Women's 50K champion Yumiko Kobayashi, from left, and Shinya Yura.



Japan's Tatsuya Shibano heads toward American Memorial Park.



A Saipanda mascot and a member of the Saipan Awaodori Team provide cheer and encouragement to the runners.



Cesar Danao and Charlie Sendin heads back down from Capital Hill.



Yoshihiro Narui reacts after the turning point from Capital Hill.



**Pacquiao:  
Relax, I'm  
going to beat  
Mayweather**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Youngster  
Wang  
almost  
gave up**  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# MP United, Shirley's bag division titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M**P United Football Club and Shirley's FC secured the championship in their respective divisions in the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League.

MP United capped the round-robin contest in the co-ed U12 division with a field best 7-1-0 win-draw loss record to finish way ahead of Kanoa FC (2-4-2), Tan Holdings (3-1-4), and Paire (3-1-4), which gained 10 points each in eight games. MP United collected 22 points, getting three more after routing Matansa (1-1-6), 4-0, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



Dylan Cho starred in MP United's last game, making a hat-trick, while Brian Kim logged the other goal for the division champion.

In the other U12 pairing last Saturday, Paire downed Kanoa, 5-3.

Kaden Church delivered the goods for Paire, scoring all of the team's five goals to outduel Kanoa's Ian Karl Maniago, who knocked in three goals.

Meanwhile, Shirley's FC

clinched the girls U15 tiara, thanks to Tan Holdings, which forced a draw against erstwhile leader Matansa.

Going into last Saturday's final game, Matansa and Shirley's had similar 7-2-0 records with the former winning the tiebreak with its more goals, 29-26.

Matansa then dueled Tan Holdings last weekend and settled for a deadlock, 2-2. Chloe Salvosa hit the equalizer for Tan Holdings in the 39th minute and she also registered the team's first goal in the 17th.

Angelica Sally duplicated Salvosa's feat, drilling the pair of goals in the 19th and 27th minute, however she failed to keep Matansa on top of the six-team field, as the 2014 spring and fall season champion

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## Garapan reclaims cage crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

  
Garapan Elementary School bounced back from an infamous finish last season with a championship win in the 2015 Public School System Boy Basketball Tournament held this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Mallards, who placed last in the 2014 tournament after failing to notch a single win in the eight-team field, redeemed themselves in the April

18 caging and regained the title they won in 2013, following a 17-14 victory in Game 2 of the finals against William S. Reyes Elementary School.

The champion squad is composed of J.J. Johnny, Anthon Saurez, Dexter Marzo, Peterson Francis, Hanferry Kapwich, R-Son Menchor, Jericho Tomboc, Freidrich Garon, Francisco Hapdei, Andre Camacho, and Matthew Tawagan. Walter Mendez and Jonathan Ball are the team's coaches.

The Mallards won all their elimination round games, prevailing against Kagman, San

Vicente, Koblerville, WSR, and Gregorio T. Camacho. Then in the double-elimination playoffs, Garapan fell to WSR, sending the finals to a deciding Game 2.

"After we lost Game 1, we made some changes to our defensive strategies and these worked in Game 2," said Ball, who has been calling the shots for Garapan for three years.

Mendez, who made his coaching debut with the Mallards, said they won the championship despite a short prepa-

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Garapan Elementary School players and coaches Jonathan Ball, standing right, Walter Mendez, standing left, pose for a group photo before an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday at the Mallards' stage. Garapan won the 2015 Public School System Boy Basketball Tournament held this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Grafton Howard, seen here dribbling during a friendly game last month in Garapan, plays for MP United Football Club, which ruled the co-ed U12 division of the NMIFA youth league.

## Tickets selling fast for PPV of Pacquiao-Mayweather fight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTERS

 As expected, pay per view tickets on Saipan for the highly-anticipated bout between Philippine icon Manny Pacquiao and the unbeaten Floyd Mayweather Jr. this Sunday are selling like hotcakes.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Abner Acosta said their \$60 VIP tickets are sold out and more are inquiring.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will be holding a pay per view broadcast of the Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr. bout dubbed as "Fight of the Century" this Sunday, starting at 10:30am at the Hibiscus Hall and Chambre Bar.

They are also selling general admission tickets at \$30.

"Tickets sales are doing very well even if we only signed up with Docomo to show the fight last Friday, April 24. We only started to sell tickets last Saturday, April 25. VIP tickets are already sold out and there are still a lot of people wanting to buy them," Acosta said.

Over at Saipan World Resort,



local sales manager and public relations official Mike Babauta said, generally ticket sales are going well with the VIP tickets first to be sold out.

**'Fight of the Century'**  
Fiesta's patrons who purchased VIP tickets will watch the duel

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